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September 3, 1984

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AGRICULTURE MINISTER ASKS CWB TO REMOVE QUOTAS FROM FEED GRAINS

In a telex to the Honorable Lloyd Axworthy, federal minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, Alberta's agriculture minister, LeRoy Fjordbotten, has asked that the Canadian Wheat Board remove quotas from non-board feed grains.

The telex noted that a similar request had been made earlier in light of the tight feed supply for drought areas. Removing quotas would allow the free flow of feed grain to accommodate buyers and sellers, Mr. Fjordbotten said. However, that request was not granted.

In the telex Mr. Fjordbotten said: "The Canadian Wheat Board unilaterally changed the feed grain policy when it changed price basis for domestic feed grain west of Scott, Saskatchewan to Vancouver rather than Thunder Bay. A more recent press release from the Canadian Wheat Board Advisory Committee implies that feed users should make commitments to purchase before they are given any preference in treatment. We respectfully submit that forward commitment is not possible through the board system as the system does not provide a price for purchases in the future."

Mr. Fjordbotten went on in his telex to say that Alberta has argued for some time that Canadian Wheat Board quotas are not necessary for non-board feed grains. "In fact," the minister said, "they impede marketing efficiency."

"The counter-argument that retaining quotas and in particular setting low quotas would offer greater security of feed stocks for the domestic market is asking the feed grain producer to shoulder the burden for the livestock producer," the telex read. "Grain farmers are in no position to assume further burdens."

- (cont'd) -

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Agriculture Minister Asks CWB To Remove Quotas From Feed Grains (cont'd)

The minister suggested that each grain company could administer its own quotas if it were deemed necessary to control available elevator space.

Mr. Fjordbotten listed some of the measures the Alberta government has taken in response to the drought. Relief programs have been announced, feed and forage exchanges are in operation, reduced rail rates for feedstuffs are being negotiated and space at Alberta Terminals Limited is being made available.

"Removal of quotas would lend greater impact to these actions and do more to facilitate feed movement and availability. It is an opportune time to deregulate the system and monitor the results," the minister concluded.

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LOW ROUGHAGE RATIONS FOR BEEF COWS

With forage sources in short supply in many areas of Alberta, beef producers should consider feeding their cows rations with a minimum amount of roughage.

Since transporting hay is expensive, Dale Engstrom, ruminant nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture, recommends a low-roughage diet.

Mr. Engstrom cautions, however, that some roughage in the animal's diet is necessary. "Roughage provides some bulk and stimulation to the digestive system. While researchers have fed rations that contain little or no roughage, this is not practical for wintering beef cows on most farms."

The nutritionist recommends that cows receive at least one per cent of their body weight as hay or straw daily. "In other words, an 1100-pound cow should have a minimum of 11 pounds of hay, straw or greenfeed each day. Three pounds of silage provide the same amount of roughage as one pound of hay on an as-fed basis."

For producers using low roughage - high grain rations, Mr. Engstrom suggests keeping the following points in mind.

- Change to low roughage rations gradually; allowing cows time to adjust to the different feeds and feeding system.

- Provide enough grain and supplement to meet the nutrient requirements of the cows. Increase the grain allowance during cold weather and for the last six weeks of pregnancy. Grain has almost no calcium or vitamin A so be sure to balance the ration for these nutrients.

- Although it's difficult, try to make sure all cows in the herd get an even distribution of grain mix. Effort must be made to ensure that the timid cows get their share and the aggressive cows don't consume too much grain and get sick.

- (cont'd) -

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Low Roughage Rations For Beef Cows (cont'd)

- Feed the grain and roughage in some type of feedbunk to minimize waste and the consumption of soil or sand. Soil and sand do not pass easily through the digestive system and can be responsible for impaction.
- Feed at least half of the roughage in the long form. Ground or finely chopped roughage, especially silage, is thought to be at least partly responsible for twisted stomachs in dairy cattle on high grain rations.
- Cattle may feel empty, hungry or bored on low roughage rations even though their nutrient needs are being met. This often leads to odd behavior such as stripping bark from trees or eating wood fences. Mr. Engstrom says some producers have solved this problem by mixing wood shavings or sawdust in the grain mix. Others have cut and hauled trees in to minimize damage to corrals.

Mr. Engstrom encourages producers faced with a feed shortage this year to have their feed supplies analysed and balanced rations formulated. "This will help minimize any waste of nutrients and ensure that the nutrient needs of livestock are met," he says.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEAK CALVES AND THE NUTRITION OF THE COW

The middle three months of pregnancy is a critical period during which the nutrition of the cow shouldn't be neglected. The usual emphasis on feeding the pregnant beef cow centres on the last three months of pregnancy and, as a result, feeding during the middle three months is often overlooked.

Dr. George Klavano of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division says the result of improper nutrition during those three months could be a "weak calf". He explains that at approximately the fifth month of pregnancy, the placenta normally weighs the same as it does at the end of pregnancy.

"Between six and nine months of pregnancy, growth of the fetus is accelerated and there is a fourfold increase in weight during this period." He adds, "There is little additional change in the weight of the placenta but there is an increase in the blood supply, with increased output of the heart of the developing fetus."

If normal placental development is retarded as the result of poor nutrition, there may be growth retardation of the developing calf, or a calf which has reduced viability at birth. If either of these conditions is present during delivery, a "weak calf" may be the result.

A "weak calf" is often associated with slow or prolonged delivery and this, coupled with a placental deficiency induced by inadequate feeding during the fourth to sixth months of pregnancy, can produce a calf suffering from oxygen starvation. Dr. Klavano says when such a calf is exposed to cold, it seems to become hypothermic and this further increases oxygen starvation. In an oxygen starved, chilled calf, there is retardation of some of the processes, especially those involving the heart and lungs, that allow for a transition from intra-uterine life to life after birth.

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Weak Calves And The Nutrition Of The Cow (cont'd)

For these reasons, Dr. Klavano stresses that it is important that beef brood cows and heifers be fed correctly during the fourth to sixth months of pregnancy, which in many animals occur during September, October and November. During those months, many cows continue to graze on pastures which are inadequate because they are dry, overgrazed and frozen.

"That's a combination that leaves a great deal to be desired in terms of the supply of protein and energy for both cow and calf," says the veterinarian. "Many cows in this negative feeding period lose weight and, at this time, such weight loss impedes normal development of the placenta. This entire process can result in one of the factors leading to the development of the "weak calf" syndrome."

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APPLICATIONS FOR FARMING FOR THE FUTURE FUNDING INVITED

Alberta Agriculture invites interested researchers to make submissions for Farming for the Future research program projects. The deadline for applications is November 1, 1984. Prospective applicants should note this year's deadline is one month earlier than it has been in previous years.

Farming for the Future is a commitment of the Alberta government through the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund to support agricultural research of benefit to Alberta.

To be eligible for research program awards, projects must have the potential to increase agricultural productivity and improve net farm income as well as enhance the long-term viability of Alberta's agricultural industry. Researchers must demonstrate their competence to carry out a formal agricultural research project.

Under another funding program of Farming for the Future, the On-Farm Demonstration Program, funds are available to producers and farm organizations for projects primarily oriented toward demonstrating or testing agricultural technology generated by Farming for the Future and other research programs. Proposals are reviewed on a year-round basis and should be directed to Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturists, home economists or regional/district specialists.

For application forms or further information contact Research Division, Alberta Agriculture, No.206, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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CUSTOM HERBICIDE APPLICATION FEES IN 1984

The results of a survey conducted in June and July of 1984 on custom herbicide application rates have been released by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch and the farm business management branch.

The following tables contain a summary of the results:

Table 1: Aerial Herbicide Application Rates Based On Gallons Of Water Per Acre

Region		1 to 2 gallons	3 to 4 gallons	5 gallons +
South	Fixed wing	$2.50 to $3.75	$3.50 to $4.25	$4.00 to $5.75
	Helicopter	$3.25 to $3.75	$4.25	–
Central	Fixed wing	$2.75 to $3.75	$3.50 to $4.25	–
	Helicopter	–	–	–
North	Fixed wing	$3.00 to $4.20	$3.50	–
	Helicopter	–	–	–
Most common charge in Alberta	Fixed wing	$2.75 to $3.25	$3.50 to $4.00	$4.50 to $5.25
	Helicopter	$3.25 to $3.75	$4.25	–

Table 2: Ground Herbicide Application Rates For 1 to 2 Gallons Of Water Per Acre

	South	Central	North	Most Common
Floater	$2.75 to $3.50	$2.00 to $3.50	$3.25	$2.50 to $3.00
Air Seeder	$2.75	–	–	–
Pull Type	$9.00*	–	$1.75 to $2.00	$1.75 to $2.00
Truck Mounted	$1.75 to $2.50	$1.75 to $2.20	–	$1.75 to $2.25

* deep banding; includes cultivator

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Custom Herbicide Application Fees In 1984 (cont'd)

Peggy Johnson of the farm business management branch says that it is difficult to tell if the charges for custom herbicide application have changed over the last year. She says that because the 1984 survey has more detailed information, a direct comparison with the 1983 custom herbicide application is not feasible.

More information on rates for custom work on farms can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturists, statistics branch in Edmonton (427-4018) or the farm business management branch in Olds (556-4240).

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September 3, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"RAT" SIGHTINGS REPORTED

Many Albertans have reported seeing suspicious rat-like rodents scurrying across streets, roadways, lawns and gardens, says Mike Dorrance, supervisor of problem wildlife with Alberta Agriculture. "Many other suspicious critters are brought home by the family pet," he says.

Upon close inspection, most of these rodents turn out to be young muskrats and not Norway rats as many people fear.

Dr. Dorrance explains that at this time of the year juvenile muskrats disperse from the family unit and seek new territory. Since many sloughs and potholes are dry this year, muskrats are having to search over a greater area to find food and water. Consequently, muskrats are being found in the most unlikely locations.

The two main features that distinguish young muskrats from Norway rats are the hind feet and tail. The tail of the muskrat is one color, usually dark brown to black, and is laterally compressed; that is, possessing a ridge on the top and bottom. The hind feet of a muskrat are much larger than the front feet and the toes are partially webbed.

The tail of the Norway rat is round in cross-section and bicolored: dark above, light underneath. The hind feet of a rat are small and have no webbing at all.

Local or municipal pest control officers or agricultural fieldmen should be contacted for verification of suspect rodents.

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MANURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Manure that is collected, stored and utilized in an effort to minimize nutrient losses can go a long way in replacing commercial fertilizers and reducing the energy used in its manufacture. In addition, technology will now allow some farms to process manure and use it as a substitute for conventional sources of fuel or as a livestock feed.

In a recent publication by Len Fullen of Alberta Agriculture's production and resource economics branch, alternative methods of handling and using manure are discussed in an effort to assist producers in getting the most value from the manure generated by their livestock or poultry operations. Mr. Fullen's report takes a broad perspective of manure management by discussing both economic and environmental considerations.

Economic evaluations of plowdown and direct injection of manure beneath the soil surface showed that the extra costs incurred as a result of incorporating manure were easiest to justify when some value could be placed on odor control, on tillage that would have occurred anyway and on the greater amount of nitrogen retained.

In an evaluation of the benefits and costs associated with plowdown immediately following surface spreading of liquid manure, Mr. Fullen found that the total benefit amounted to $3.47 per thousand gallons when a value was placed on both nitrogen savings and tillage. Total additional costs were only 90 cents per thousand gallons. When a value was given to odor control, benefits were even greater while costs remained the same.

In another example, Mr. Fullen compared the costs of owning manure-handling equipment and hiring a custom manure-handling service. The example assumed that liquid manure was pumped from slotted-floor hog feeding barns and applied to an 80-acre field near the farmstead. It assumed 250,000 gallons had to be hauled and a one-mile round trip was required on average.

- (cont'd) -

Manure Management Systems (cont'd)

Using his own equipment, including a chisel cultivator for plowdown, the farmer's costs would be $2,456, of which $336 was for 48 hours of labor. Total benefits amounted to $5,860, assuming a 25 per cent loss in nitrogen during storage and an additional five per cent loss when manure is spread and incorporated immediately. Ten per cent of the phosphorus was assumed to be lost and no value was given to the potassium since most soils in Alberta contain sufficient for optimum plant growth.

Hiring a custom operator to haul and inject manure was assumed to cost $2,500. The benefits from the nutrients in manure were determined to be $5,988, slightly higher than where manure was plowed down since only two per cent of the nitrogen would be lost during hauling and injection.

The last part of the publication reports on current technology as it relates to "farm-scale" composting of manure, production of methane from manure and recycling manure for use in livestock rations.

Copies of the publication, Economic and Environmental Considerations in Evaluating Manure Management Systems, Agdex 821-33, are available from Alberta Agriculture's district offices or by writing to the Publications Office, J.G. O'Donohue Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EQUITANA CANADA TO BE HELD NEAR CALGARY

Equitana, North America's first trade fair for horses and horse-related products, will be held September 5 to 9, 1984, in conjunction with the Spruce Meadows Masters Horse Show. The Spruce Meadows horse show is an international tournament which attracts the world's best competitors from Canada, Europe and the United States. Over 60,000 spectators attended last year.

Equitana will have in excess of 160 exhibits of tack, equipment and services from throughout Canada, the United States and Europe.

This year an added feature is the "Alberta Breeds for the World" display. The breed exhibit, coordinated by Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch, will involve demonstrations and displays by 11 Alberta horse breed associations.

The participating breeds include Arabians, Belgians, Hunters, Icelandic Ponies, Morgans, Pony breeds, Peruvian Pasos, Quarter Horses, Standardbreds, Tennessee Walkers and Thoroughbreds. Alberta breeders have some of the best quality horses in the world. They will display and demonstrate the uniqueness of their horses at noon and 4:30 p.m. daily.

Spruce Meadows is located south of the Calgary city limits on Highway 22X.

For more information, contact Spruce Meadows at 256-4977 or Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch in Calgary at 276-7775.

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September 3, 1984

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SOURCES OF FARM BUSINESS CREDIT IN ALBERTA

The 1984 edition of the Alberta Agriculture publication entitled "Sources of Farm Business Credit in Alberta", contains an update of the private and government long term lending programs available to Alberta farmers. The information contained in this publication was compiled on or before June of this year. Most of the changes in this revision are within the terms and conditions sections of the 15 different programs included in the publication.

Alan Shideler of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch says the publication now includes a new section entitled Agriculture Credit Management Services. This section contains a list of government agencies and private firms that can provide assistance to farmers by helping them analyze financial alternatives for their farms. For example, it lists the location of the regional farm economists, bank agrologists and private agricultural consultants.

Credit needs are constantly changing; this is evident by some of the changes in farm business credit even since this publication went to print. Some recent changes have been made to the Agricultural Development Corporation loan programs. For example, loans in arrears up to $50,000 can now be re-amortized over the remaining length of the loan at an interest rate of 12 per cent. As well, consolidation of trade debts is now available under the Alberta Farm Development Loan (AFDL) Program.

A copy of the publication "Sources of Farm Business Credit in Alberta" (Agdex 832) can be obtained from your district agriculturist, from the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO or by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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CHANGE IN DELIVERY POINTS FOR ALBERTA BARLEY FUTURES MARKET

Alberta Agriculture Minister LeRoy Fjordbotten and Doug Ford, president of the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange, have announced a change in the delivery specifications of the Alberta Barley Futures Market.

The Exchange will now recognize Calgary and Lethbridge as the only specified delivery points on the contract, removing Edmonton as an alternate delivery point.

Mr. Fjordbotten said this will improve the marketing of feed grain in southern Alberta and result in prices reflecting more accurately the supply and demand conditions there.

In a normal year the Alberta barley harvest accounts for almost half of Canada's production. Mr. Fjordbotten said that in southern Alberta the growth of specialized livestock operations that do not grow their own feed has resulted in an active barley market between farmers and feeders. "If current trends continue," he said, "this market for barley will soon exceed that for Western Canadian barley in Eastern Canada."

The timing of the change in delivery points for the barley futures market is particularly appropriate in view of the drought conditions faced by southern livestock producers, said Mr. Fjordbotten.

He indicated that a properly functioning futures market would result in a fair price for sellers and buyers and encourage the flow of the limited barley supplies from field to feedlot in an orderly manner until additional supplies are available from the 1985 harvest. Producers in northern Alberta will still have the option of the Thunder Bay or southern Alberta market for domestic feed grain.

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Change In Delivery Points For Alberta Barley Futures Market (cont'd)

The Alberta government provided start-up assistance of $250,000 in 1983 for the Alberta Barley Futures Market, and the Exchange committed itself to operate the market until at least the end of the 1985-86 crop year. Although the market's volumes have declined recently, Mr. Fjordbotten and Mr. Ford indicated they are confident it will be able to serve the needs of the industry.

Mr. Ford said that one of the major challenges for the success of the market has been the existence of Canadian Wheat Board quotas on domestic feeds. Mr. Fjordbotten called these quotas "inappropriate," and said that the recent decision of the board to institute open quotas on domestic feed grain will allow for orderly marketing of feed grain and equitable access to markets and supplies for all barley growers and feeders.

Mr. Fjordbotten noted that he had made several requests to the board for removal of quotas and that as recently as August 22, 1984 he made the same request to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

"I am pleased with this development because of the positive impacts it can have on both the Alberta futures market and the domestic feed grain marketing system in general," said Mr. Fjordbotten.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA SELLS WINTER RYE TO KOREA

Alberta's agricultural industry marked another first in international trade with the sale of 1,800 tonnes of Kodiak, a winter rye, to Korea in early September.

"This sale, along with an order now being confirmed for an additional 800 tonnes of Kodiak, will have a value of more than $500,000," says Jackson Gardner, international trade director with Alberta Agriculture. This means that Korea is one of the largest buyers of seed from Alberta, if not the largest.

The contract between the Alberta Wheat Pool and the Korean government came about after five years of work by Alberta industry and government to break into the Korean market for seed.

The Koreans chose Kodiak because it is suitable for growing in rotation with the rice crop. The rye will be seeded in the fall and harvested in the spring in time for rice to be planted.

Behind the sale is the large-scale cattle import program the Korean government embarked upon about 10 years ago, and the accompanying need for increased feed supplies.

About five years ago when the Korean government inquired about Alberta forage varieties that might be suitable, Kodiak was one that market development's staff recommended after consultation with industry and scientists. Trials using Kodiak began two years ago at the research station at Suweon, Korea.

Even after the trials proved successful, however, one hurdle remained: in order to be eligible for import into Korea, Kodiak had to be added to a list of varieties recognized by the Korean government. Such approval is by no means automatic. Once again Alberta's government and industry representatives joined forces, this time to lobby the Korean government to accept the trial results. About six months ago Kodiak was added to the list.

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Alberta Sells Winter Rye to Korea (cont'd)

As for future sales, prospects look very good, says Mr. Gardner. "Kodiak will help to establish Alberta in Korea as a supplier of high quality seed," he says. In addition to continuing efforts to sell seed, the market development sector is encouraging the Koreans to send their own forage seed varieties to Alberta to be multiplied.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADA THISTLE: TIME FOR STRIKE TWO

Last spring, spurred on by significant losses in crop yield in 1983 and aided by a long spraying season, many Alberta farmers delivered a major first strike against Canada thistle.

Now is the time to follow up with another application of herbicide, a tillage operation or both, says a weed control specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

"Persistent perennials like Canada thistle aren't usually controlled by one tillage or herbicide application but rather by root starvation," says Walter Yarish. "Now, when the thistles are green, growing and producing rosettes, the time is right for another attack."

During the fall when the thistles are storing food, herbicides such as 2,4-D, MCPA, Banvel, Roundup and Amitrol-T move readily down to the root. Tillage will weaken the root system but not as much as an effective herbicide. Farmers will get the best results of all by applying a herbicide followed by tillage several weeks later, says Mr. Yarish.

"The soil moisture conditions and the risk of wind erosion have a bearing on the option most suitable in your area," he adds. He suggests that farmers contact a district agriculturist or municipal agricultural fieldman if they're wondering about the most appropriate means of Canada thistle control.

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CUSTOM CROP SEEDING CHARGES IN 1984

The rates charged for custom crop seeding in Alberta changed little between 1983 and 1984.

That was the finding of an annual survey conducted in June and July 1984 by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch and farm business management branch.

Peggy Johnson of farm business management says that charges for custom seeding are fairly uniform throughout Alberta, although they vary according to circumstances. Such factors include the size of the field being seeded, the crop being sown (cereals, oilseeds or grasses) and other operations that may be included during the same pass over the field (application of fertilizer or herbicide, for example).

The following table summarizes the results of the 1984 survey and compares them with last year's rates.

Crop Seeding Charges Per Acre

	Most common 1984 charges	Most common 1983 charges	Range for 1984
Fixed wing	$3.50 to $4.50	$3.50 to $4.50	$3.00 to $5.00
Helicopter	$2.50 *	$3.00 to $4.90	$2.50 *
Floater	$3.00 to $4.00	$3.00 *	$3.00 to $4.00
Air seeder	$4.00 to $5.75	$3.00 to $5.50	$4.00 to $7.50
Seed drill	$4.00 to $5.50	–	$4.00 to $7.00
Pull type	$6.00 to $6.50	$4.00 to $5.75	$6.00 to $6.50

*One report only

Further information on custom seeding charges and other custom operation charges can be obtained from district agriculturists, the statistics branch in Edmonton or the farm business management branch in Olds.

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SELECTING A HOME HEATING FUEL

For many people building a new home, especially in rural areas, the choice of heating fuel is difficult. An inappropriate decision can cost the homeowner thousands of dollars extra over the life of the heating system.

The decision can be simplified by establishing some basic costs, says Don Wharton, an energy management engineer with Alberta Agriculture. To compare two heating fuels, try to determine the following items:

- the cost in dollars per energy unit
- any service or fixed monthly charges, if you're buying your fuel from a utility company
- any taxes or rebates on the fuel
- any other charges — transportation, storage, etc.
- connection charges, if connecting to a utility grid
- the estimated annual energy use for the house
- the fuel burning efficiency of the heating system you are operating
- the capital cost of the heating systems including the heating unit, chimney, ductwork, piping, controls and installation

While this may seem like a lot of information, Mr. Wharton says you can get most of it from the local utility company or fuel supplier, and from heating contractors. The most difficult part for many homeowners is estimating the annual energy use of the proposed house. However, both Alberta Agriculture and the federal department of energy, mines and resources will help families calculate this figure based on their house plan and the home's insulation values.

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Selecting A Home Heating Fuel (cont'd)

"We recently looked at the long-term capital and operating costs for a modestly-sized, well insulated home in the Fairview area," says Mr. Wharton. The cheapest fuel was wood used in an airtight woodstove, which had a total cost of $2,900 over 15 years. Next cheapest was wood in a wood furnace, followed by coal. Of the more conventional fuels, natural gas burned in an 80 per cent efficient furnace was the least costly at $5,500 over 15 years. Both propane and electricity were almost twice as expensive as natural gas because of their much higher energy costs.

Mr. Wharton says that every new house is unique because of varying energy costs, insulation values and heating system efficiencies. But prospective homeowners can do similar calculations for their own situations, and then decide on the most cost-effective heating system for the home.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTED TO FAIRVIEW

Nora Paulovich, a native of the Peace region, has been appointed district agriculturist at Fairview. Don Young, Alberta Agriculture's regional director at Fairview, announced the appointment.

Ms. Paulovich was raised on the family farm near Manning. In 1980 she graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in animal science.

After graduation she worked as a land resource agrologist with Alberta Energy and Natural Resources in High Level and Fairview, conducting field inspections and making recommendations on land use.

In 1983 as a summer assistant district agriculturist with Alberta Agriculture in Peace River and Spirit River, Ms. Paulovich was responsible for setting out plots for agricultural service boards and a Farming for the Future demonstration, along with other DA duties.

This year Ms. Paulovich is president of the Peace River branch of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists.

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REGIONAL LIVESTOCK SPECIALIST APPOINTED AT FAIRVIEW

Alberta Agriculture's new regional livestock specialist at Fairview is L. Trevor Jones. His appointment was announced by the regional director in Fairview, Don Young.

Mr. Jones obtained his B.Sc. from the University of British Columbia in 1955 and his M.Sc. in ruminant nutrition from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland in 1972.

Mr. Jones has lived and worked in the Peace region for 27 years. He first came to Fairview College as the farm manager, responsible for the college's cow herd, feedlot and sheep flock. He later served as the college's animal science instructor. When the college farm was closed for two years as the result of a fire, Mr. Jones worked as a district agriculturist in Red Deer and Grande Prairie.

More recently Mr. Jones travelled across western Canada as a commercial cattle representative with the Canadian Hereford Association. He has also worked as a sheep technician with Alberta Agriculture in the Peace region.

As livestock specialist, Mr. Jones will work primarily in beef cattle production and management but also in the areas of sheep and swine. He replaces Keith Winchell who resigned to go farming.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Joanne Dykstra of Ponoka and Dore Campmans of Picture Butte are the winners of the Central Alberta Dairy Pool Scholarships for 1984.

These scholarships are awarded annually to first- or second-year students in agriculture or a related field. They recognize 4-H achievement and academic performance by 4-H members with dairy backgrounds, preferably those whose families ship milk in Central Alberta Dairy Pool production areas.

Joanne is from Ponoka and is the youngest of six children. She was a member of the Ponoka 4-H Dairy Club for five years and junior leader of the Lacombe 4-H Dairy Club for two years. Joanne's 4-H involvement has included conferences, camps and provincial competitions. She will take her first year of commerce at the University of Alberta this year.

Dore is the oldest of seven children. During her six years as a member of the Lethbridge Northern 4-H Beef Club, she took a special interest in public speaking and helping younger members. She enjoys working with children and will attend the University of Lethbridge this fall, enrolled in the Faculty of Education.

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AGRI-NEWS

September 17, 1984

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September 17, 1984

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DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR SEEDING WINTER WHEAT

Producers have until September 30 to seed winter wheat and still obtain crop insurance from the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation.

This represents a 10-day extension of the deadline; previously September 20 was the final seeding date.

There are two reasons for the extension, said Alberta Agriculture Minister LeRoy Fjordbotten. "First, late hatches of grasshoppers in many areas are resulting in continued infestations this fall. Second, the lack of moisture remains a serious concern." The new deadline will give farmers some extra time to decide whether seeding winter wheat is feasible. If they do seed, the delay may allow the crop to sprout without being eaten by grasshoppers.

"The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation has been very sensitive to the effects of the extreme drought conditions," said Mr. Fjordbotten. Earlier this summer the minister approved changes which allowed farmers to leave check strips for adjustment later. Producers thus had the choice of leaving their crops for harvesting or cutting them for feed.

"We must be flexible in our policies to ensure that producers are better able to cope with the impact of events like the drought and grasshopper infestations," he added.

Farmers are expected to seed approximately 300,000 acres of winter wheat this fall with a potential yield of up to 10 million bushels. Winter wheat accounts for about five per cent of total wheat production in Alberta.

Producers who want more information on insurance for their winter wheat should contact the nearest Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance office.

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MUDDY CATTLE COST PRODUCERS MONEY

Cattle fed in muddy conditions cost the producer money. In extreme circumstances, daily feed intake can be cut by as much as 30 per cent and daily gains may drop by 25 per cent.

Ross Gould, Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle specialist, says that now, before freeze-up, is the time for producers to consider making permanent improvements to muddy feedlots that would reduce their losses.

Mr. Gould says that recent research from Agriculture Canada shows that for a feedlot steer, every four days spent in a muddy pen can add as much as one day to the total time spent in the feedlot.

"At current prices a pen of 100 steers in a muddy lot could cost the owner an extra $1,500 per month," he says.

The drain on profits doesn't stop in the feedlot, Mr. Gould says. The packers apply a "tag discount" on extremely dirty cattle that can cost the owner as much as 2 cents per pound live weight.

Further costs can arise if veterinary inspectors require the packer to hold, feed and bed excessively wet and dirty cattle until they are dry enough to slaughter.

The packer can lose $3.00 to $5.00 per head on processing hides and loss of by-products from a muddy animal. There is also an extra cost in time needed to process dirty animals.

Mr. Gould acknowledges that redesigning a feedlot can be expensive, and says that every feedlot owner must look at his own situation. "Improvements might not pay if there's only a week or two of mud each year," he says. "But losses from a couple of months of mud will pay for a lot of improvements."

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Muddy Cattle Cost Producers Money (cont'd)

Proper slope, bedding mounds and concrete aprons in heavy traffic areas are the three features which can help to reduce mud problems in a feedlot.

Ideally, feedlots should have a slope of four to six per cent for good drainage. While this may be difficult to correct in an existing lot, Mr. Gould suggests that producers at least reduce any water flow through the pens by diverting outside water with ditches or terraces.

Concrete aprons 10 or 12 feet wide with a slope away from feed bunks and waterers will reduce mud problems in these heavy traffic areas. Many feedlots are designed so that the apron has a step 12 to 16 inches wide and 4 to 6 inches high at the bunk to prevent steers from soiling the feed with manure.

Where possible, bedding mounds should be made of clay loam or silt loam soil free from manure or other organic matter. The mounds should have a 20 per cent slope and be five feet to eight feet high. A mound should provide 25 square feet of surface for each animal.

More information on bedding mounds and concrete apron design is contained in Farm Building Plan Service leaflets which are available through district agriculturists.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STUDY OF GREENHOUSE COSTS AND RETURNS

The most profitable commercial greenhouses in Alberta during the 1982-83 growing season were those of the largest size, and those producing more than one kind of crop.

Alberta Agriculture's production and resource economics branch has just released the results of a study of 25 greenhouse operations, two-thirds of them in southern and south-central Alberta, and the remainder in northern and north-central Alberta.

Agricultural economist Nabi Chaudhary says that the province's greenhouse industry has weathered considerable change during the past few years, notably the doubling of natural gas costs for heating.

The study showed that energy amounted to 14 per cent of total greenhouse operating costs in 1982-83. While this cost concerned many growers, they also said the government's energy rebate program, introduced in October 1982, had provided some relief. This program offers primary producers a rebate of up to $4,850 per year toward natural gas heating costs.

In 1982-83 an average sized greenhouse (34,800 square feet) in Alberta had production costs of $6.62 per square foot and gross revenue of $6.31 per square foot, showing a net loss of 31 cents per square foot.

Greenhouses in the north tended to be larger, with correspondingly higher production costs. In the north, production costs averaged $7.00 per square foot with a positive return to management of 19 cents per square foot. For southern regions, production costs averaged $6.35 per square foot and return to management was negative by 67 cents per square foot.

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Study Of Greenhouse Costs And Returns (cont'd)

When the study sample was analysed by size, only the largest greenhouses, those of 45,000 square feet and over, showed a profit during 1982-83, about 30 cents per square foot. Many of these greenhouses had retailing facilities, which Mr. Chaudhary says helped to increase profitability. Medium-sized greenhouses, meanwhile, showed a loss of 75 cents per square foot. Small greenhouses, which averaged 15,000 square feet, lost $1.24 per square foot. These losses occurred after major costs such as materials, heating, depreciation, marketing and operator's labor were considered. For small greenhouses the operator's labor was calculated at $24,000; for medium-sized greenhouses, $33,000; and for large greenhouses, $53,000.

Diversity of crops and profitability were closely linked. Greenhouses producing combination crops like bedding plants, potted plants and cut flowers brought in double the returns of greenhouses producing vegetables alone.

Both costs and returns were higher for greenhouses in northern and north-central Alberta than those in the south, probably because operations in the north tended to be more diversified, says Mr. Chaudhary.

Other findings of the greenhouse study were that availability of labor was no longer a problem, as it had been in 1979 and earlier; and that greenhouse operators found farmers' markets very useful for marketing their produce.

Some greenhouse operators also mentioned insufficient assistance from government lending institutions as a possible limiting factor to the growth of their industry.

Copies of "The Economics of Production and Marketing of Greenhouse Crops in Alberta 1982-83" are available from Alberta Agriculture's Production and Resource Economics Branch or by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

September 17, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COST OF MILK PRODUCTION IN ALBERTA, 1983

Alberta's top dairy producers produce nearly 30 per cent more milk per cow than the least efficient producers while spending only one per cent more on feed.

That was among the findings of an Alberta Agriculture study which analysed the production costs of 57 milk producers throughout Alberta in 1983. The study, conducted by the production economics branch, identified the top and low management groups and compared them with the standard or average group.

The low and top groups were selected according to these factors: milk production per cow, the total cost per litre of milk, milk production per hours of labor, milk production per dollar of feed and milk production per dollar of investment. The low group consisted of producers who were below average in four or more of these factors. The top group were above average in four or more of the factors.

Gerd Andres, a farm management economist at Olds, says the study turns up some important economic considerations. The most important is that some dairy producers must become more efficient. As well, producers entering the dairy business must be better-than-average right from the start in order to survive.

Mr. Andres points out three findings of the dairy cost study. First, top producers achieve a better feed conversion, resulting in 28 per cent more milk per cow than low producers, while increasing feed costs by only one per cent. "This gives top producers a much higher return since feed costs account for 35 to 40 per cent of total dairy costs," he says.

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Cost Of Milk Production In Alberta, 1983 (cont'd)

Second, during 1983 the standard group earned $2.21 per hectolitre, the top group earned $6.05 per hectolitre and the low group lost $1.56 per hectolitre. "The only reason the low group can survive is that the costs of production include depreciation and family labor, which are non-cash costs," Mr. Andres observes. "In the long run, the low producers must recover these costs, especially depreciation, if they are to survive."

Third, the study shows that the top producers produce more milk from fewer cows -- specifically, an average of 290,416 litres of milk from 45 cows compared with 270,738 litres from 53 cows among the low producers. The difference in net returns between the two groups is about $22,000.

"Until now the trend has been for producers to rush to expand their operations," says Mr. Andres. "This study suggests it's better to become more efficient first and then expand. The best place for producers to improve efficiency is in the area of feed conversion."

This table shows the magnitude of the difference between the low, standard and top groups.

Management results in milk production in Alberta in 1983

	Standard group	Low group	Top group*
Milk production per cow (L)	5705	5070	6497
Cost for hL of milk ($)	41.62	45.39	37.78
Milk production per work hour (L)	70.90	58.46	73.71
Milk per dollar of feed (L)	6.50	6.00	7.61
Milk per dollar of capital (L)	1.40	1.16	1.66

- (cont'd) -

Cost Of Milk Production In Alberta, 1983 (cont'd)

	Standard group	Low group	Top group*
Butterfat test (kg/hL)	3.65	3.66	3.61
Feed cost per cow	878.30	844.36	853.33
Hours of labor per cow	80.50	86.72	88.15
Milk/feed ratio	1.97	1.16	2.02
Investment per cow	4236	4373	3918
Per cent dry cows	18.20	20.50	17.70
Debt/capital ratio	0.35	0.40	0.13
Size of operation (no. of cows)	54.70	53.40	44.7
Years farming	15.4	13.6	21.6

— Source: Economics of Milk Production In Alberta, 1983, Alberta Agriculture, Production Economics Branch.

* Results differ from the publication because of a different averaging method.

Other dairy economic information is included in the publication "Economics of Milk Production In Alberta, 1983" (Agdex 821-1). Copies can be obtained from your local district agriculturists or by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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September 17, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROCESSED ALFALFA OUTLOOK

Processed alfalfa production in Canada is up over last year, export volumes should show modest growth, and although prices aren't likely to match last year's levels, they should remain favorable.

That summarizes the outlook for processed alfalfa as seen by Alberta Agriculture's special commodities analyst, Fred Boyce.

Canadian dehy production in 1984 should reach 300,000 tonnes, an increase of 20 per cent over 1983, he says. That's because alfalfa acreage has increased in the western provinces, and because more processing plants are operating in western Canada than one year ago. Fourteen plants are operating in Alberta this year compared with 11 last year.

Sun-cured pellet and cube production may also increase slightly, bringing the total alfalfa production to about 15 per cent more than last year.

The hot, dry weather of July and August greatly reduced the second and third cuttings of alfalfa in northern Alberta and Saskatchewan. Yields were very good during the first half of the season, however, so the overall crop volume will not be greatly affected.

One effect of the hot weather will be that many plants will be able to wind up their processing operations a bit earlier this year, says Mr. Boyce. He also forecasts some increase in the domestic use of processed alfalfa. "As hay prices rise, livestock producers may find alfalfa cubes or pellets more attractive," he says.

Canadian exports of alfalfa products in 1983-84 jumped 37 per cent over 1982-83. On the world market, Japan is the dominant buyer, taking 95 per cent Canada's alfalfa exports. Mr. Boyce expects the Japanese market to show modest growth, and says Canada should be able to maintain its share of this market. Canada's total export volume for the 1984-85 crop year should reach 350,000 tonnes.

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Processed Alfalfa Outlook (cont'd)

Prices for processed alfalfa are down slightly from one year ago. Dehy pellets for exports are selling at $175 per tonne, about $10 per tonne lower than last year. Canadian prices generally follow those in the U.S., and U.S. export prices for the second quarter of the crop year are weaker. "Prices aren't expected to drop further, however, and should move upward in the new year," says Mr. Boyce.

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September 17, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BETTER BUY ALBERTA AT TRADE SHOW

For several years now the advertising message Better Buy Alberta has been directed at consumers, encouraging them to buy foods produced and processed in this province. Now Alberta's food processors are using that same theme to reach a different group: members of the foodservice industry.

On September 25 and 26, 42 Alberta companies will display under the theme Better Buy Alberta at ARFEX '84, an annual trade show sponsored by the Alberta Restaurant and Foodservices Association. The show will be held at Northlands Agricom in Edmonton.

Alberta Agriculture's market development sector is assisting these companies with their displays because, as associate marketing director Susan Kitchen says, "Foodservice is the fastest-growing segment of the market." One-third of all food dollars are spent on food outside the home. Alberta has about 4,500 foodservice establishments. ARFEX '84 is expected to attract 7,000 buyers, chefs and owner-operators from hotels, restaurants and institutions. In total the show will have over 300 exhibitors.

This year's Alberta section at ARFEX will have twice as many companies as ever before, both newcomers and large, established firms. "We decided to use the theme Better Buy Alberta because it's so well known," says Ms. Kitchen.

She adds that ARFEX gives Alberta food processors an opportunity to make contacts that frequently lead to sales, to introduce new products and to meet with buyers from outlying areas.

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BUYING A NEW FURNACE

The efficiency of home furnaces has improved tremendously in the past few years. The new models typically operate at 80 to 90 per cent efficiency compared with only 65 per cent for conventional units.

The only drawback is that the improved heating systems cost between $300 and $1,000 more. A common question from homeowners needing to replace a furnace is, "Is it worth the extra investment?"

"The answer depends on how much energy your house uses," says Don Wharton of Alberta Agriculture's home and community design branch. The average bungalow in Alberta uses about $450 worth of natural gas per year for space heating alone, not including water heating, service charges or taxes.

In this case, replacing a conventional furnace with one that is 90 per cent efficient would lower the yearly bill to $325 and save $125 per year. While that is a reasonable saving, if the homeowner has to pay an extra $1,000 for a high-efficiency furnace, it will take eight years for the fuel savings to pay for the additional investment.

"For houses that use more energy for heating, the savings increase and the investment in a new furnace looks better," says Mr. Wharton. In a house that costs $800 per year to heat, the saving would be $250 yearly with a higher efficiency furnace, and the unit would pay for itself in about four years.

The answer of whether to buy a high efficiency furnace depends on your own situation. Check the heating bills first and ask the advice of the local gas utility before deciding.

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AGRI-NEWS

September 24, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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September 24, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVESTOCK MARKET OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

Seminars on the livestock futures market, presentations on the cattle and hog outlook, and a bearpit session with speakers will make up Taking Stock, Alberta Agriculture's fourth annual livestock outlook conference.

Taking Stock is scheduled for the Convention Inn South in Edmonton November 6 and 7, 1984.

The conference will start on the afternoon of Tuesday November 6 with seminars on the futures and options markets, marketing alternatives for producers, and cycle analysis. Among the speakers are Alberta Agriculture's Dwayne Couldwell, and regional farm economists Lorne Owen and Garry Bradshaw. The seminar will end with a bearpit session during which seminar and conference speakers will be available to discuss livestock marketing concerns producers wish to raise.

There is no charge for the seminar. Each session is open on a first-come basis.

The conference portion of Taking Stock takes place Wednesday November 7. The chairman of the department of economics at the University of Alberta, Dr. Brian Scarfe, will review the general economic outlook for livestock producers. Charles Gracey of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association will present the Canadian outlook for cattle, and Dr. Larry Martin of the University of Guelph will discuss the Canadian hog outlook. Marilyn Brack, research director with the Alberta Feedgrain Users' Association in Calgary, will review the livestock feed outlook. Also on the agenda are outlooks for the American cattle and hog industries.

The registration fee, which covers conference sessions, lunch and a copy of the proceedings, is $40 per person. Copies of the proceedings alone are $15.

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Livestock Market Outlook Conference (cont'd)

Taking Stock has been scheduled to coincide with the Northlands FARMFAIR being held in Edmonton in early November.

Brochures and registration forms for Taking Stock are available from Alberta Agriculture's district offices or from the Market Analysis Branch, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone: 427-5387.

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September 24, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LATE FALL BEST FOR SOIL SAMPLING

The best time for taking fall soil samples to determine spring fertilizer needs is late in the season — early November or as close to freeze-up as possible.

This recommendation, from Len Kryzanowski of the Agricultural Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory in Edmonton, is based on recent findings from a Farming for the Future research project conducted throughout Alberta.

Researchers discovered that micro-organisms in the soil can cause its nitrogen levels to change quickly when the soil temperatures are above freezing or when the soil is moist during the fall. As the temperatures drop, the nitrogen levels change less, but never stop entirely. As a result, soil sampled in early fall can give an inaccurate prediction of spring fertilizer requirements.

"Farmers should put off soil sampling to as late in the fall as possible," says Mr. Kryzanowski. Soil sampling should be avoided during winter.

Not only is timing important to soil testing, but so is the sampling technique. "Any soil test results are only as good as the samples taken," says Mr. Kryzanowski. He recommends that farmers take separate samples for areas varying in soil type, topography, yields, crop growth or past cropping or fertilizer treatments.

Areas that should be avoided or sampled separately include back furrows; the bottoms of old straw, hay or manure piles; sites of burned brush piles; saline (alkali) spots; fence rows and areas where fertilizers have been recently banded.

Although soil samples from a depth of 0 to 15 cm are acceptable, farmers will get the most reliable results by sampling at least three depths: 0 - 15 cm, 15 - 30 cm, and 30 - 60 cm.

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Late Fall Best For Soil Sampling (cont'd)

At least 15 subsamples should be taken from each uniform area, and mixed to form a composite sample, with different depths kept separate. The composite sample should be spread to dry on clean paper before it is sent to the lab along with complete information about the sample.

Farmers wanting to have their soil tested can get a Soil Sampling Guide and sampling tools from district agriculturists or the Agricultural Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory in Edmonton. The Agricultural Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory charges $15 per field for soil testing.

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September 24, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

At this stage of the new dairy year, it seems unlikely that Canadian producers can expect any increase in Market Share Quota (MSQ), and a cutback later in the year is possible, says David Hope, dairy and poultry analyst with Alberta Agriculture.

The Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC) has left the national MSQ allotment for the 1984-85 dairy year at 47.6 million hectolitres. Mr. Hope expects that for the first quarter, national industrial milk production will exceed the levels of a year ago, but will be below that of the same period in 1982-83. He expects August production to increase, and in the longer term looks for production patterns in the coming year to more closely resemble seasonal norms than they have for three years.

On August 1 the CDC increased the over-quota levy to $34.38. This is more than three-quarters of the target level for industrial milk and makes production above a producer's quota "an extremely risky venture," says Mr. Hope.

The in-quota levy for Alberta has been held constant at $5.14 per hectolitre, although some other provinces have increased it. More increases are possible during the coming year because each province must raise a share of the national program costs. Subsidized exports of skim milk powder make up the major portion of these costs. The CDC also plans to pay for a promotional program to increase domestic consumption of skim milk powder, but Mr. Hope doesn't expect it to have a significant impact on consumption in the short run.

High levels of butter stocks in storage continue to concern the dairy industry. On August 1, stocks reached 34 million kilograms, slightly above the level a year ago and double the amount considered necessary for that time of year.

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Dairy Situation And Outlook (cont'd)

Butter sales in Canada declined nearly five per cent during the 1983-84 dairy year.

Cheese sales, in contrast, were quite good, showing an annual increase of nearly six per cent. Alberta's cheddar cheese production increased nearly 18 per cent from one year ago and specialty cheese production rose marginally. The first processed cheese plant in the prairie provinces opened in Alberta last year.

"Fluid milk sales continued to fall in Alberta during 1983-84, and projections for the economy suggest the bottom may occur during this dairy year," says Mr. Hope. He anticipates that Canadian fluid milk sales will increase moderately during the coming year.

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This outlook is based on information available in mid-September, 1984.

September 24, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USE OF STRAW IN BEEF COW RATIONS

Faced with the prospect of feed shortages and high prices for any available hay supplies this winter, many cow-calf producers will be looking for economical feed alternatives.

Locally-grown straw in rations for beef cows may be one answer. Dwight Karren, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock specialist at Lethbridge, says that straw can make up a major portion of a wintering cow's ration provided it's supplemented with good quality hay or grain and a 32 per cent beef supplement.

Straw has some limitations, however. It is low in all the main nutrients, so cannot be fed as the sole ration. Straw is also high in fibre, which limits the amount a cow can consume. Although cows look extremely full while on straw rations, their daily intake is only around 1.5 per cent of their body weight, or 15 pounds of straw for a 1,000-pound cow.

The amount of supplemental feed required with straw depends on the quality of the straw, the quality of the supplement and the nutrient requirements of the cows.

Cows differ in their nutrient requirements. Cows with the highest nutrient needs are those in late pregnancy or lactation, younger cows and those with a thin body condition. "Considering the poorer feeding quality of straw and the high cost of supplementation, straw rations are probably economically feasible only for wintering mature cows with good body condition early in pregnancy," says Mr. Karren.

The quality of the straw also affects the amount of supplement that is necessary. Oat straw has a higher feeding value than barley straw which is in turn higher than wheat straw. Straw from rough-awned barley varieties has a lower feeding value than straw from

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Use Of Straw In Beef Cow Rations (cont'd)

smooth-awned varieties. Two-row barley produces a better straw than six-row barley. Straw from soft wheat has a higher feeding value than straw from hard wheat. Cereal straw grown under irrigation can have a higher feeding value than straw from dry-land crops.

The time and methods of harvesting play a part in the feeding value of straw. Straw harvested soon after combining has less weathering and less leaf loss and therefore better feeding quality.

The method of feeding also influences the feeding quality of straw. If cows are given free choice of a larger quantity of straw than is necessary, they will select the more nutritious portions of the straw and thus need less supplementation than with a feeding method that requires the cows to consume only the amount that they require.

Although the supplementation of straw rations depends upon several factors, the following can be used as sample rations.

Feed required by a dry 1,000-pound beef cow (pounds per day)

		Hay rations		Cereal-Straw rations		
	Cost ($/ton)	Alfalfa-grass hay	Grass hay	Alfalfa hay	Alfalfa-grass hay	Grain + supplement
Grass hay	80.00	–	20	–	–	–
Barley straw	30.00	–	–	15	10	15
Alfalfa-grass hay	100.00	18	–	–	10	–
Alfalfa hay	120.00	–	–	8	–	–
Rolled barley	125.00	–	–	–	–	4
32% beef supplement	200.00	–	–	–	–	1
Cost (¢ /head/day)		90.00	80.00	70.50	65.00	57.50

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEADLINE NEARS FOR ROYAL ENTRIES

October 6 is the deadline for entries in the field crops section of this year's Toronto Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, to be held November 8 - 17.

Alberta Agriculture will again pay for transporting exhibits in the cereals, oilseeds and forage seed categories to Toronto. The department also offers an honorarium of $150 for any reserve champion prize and $200 for any grand championship.

"Alberta entries have been extremely successful in the past," says Bill Witbeck of Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch. "The winners receive prize money and perhaps more important, recognition that is valuable to Alberta's entire agricultural community."

Exhibits may be selected from either the 1983 or 1984 crop year, and the entry fee is $2 per sample except for 4-H or pedigreed seed classes, which have no fee.

Entries in the commercial cereal seed classes must be 10 pounds each, while commercial forage, mustard and rapeseed samples must weigh three pounds each. Pedigreed cereal entries must be three pounds, taken from a lot of at least 100 bushels. Pedigreed forage samples must weigh two pounds and be taken from a lot of at least 500 pounds.

Hay samples must contain not less than a 12-inch section of a bale, and sheaves must be between five and seven inches in diameter in the centre.

Seed potato samples must contain 20 tubers that weigh 6 to 7 ounces each, and the variety must be noted. The deadline for entries of potatoes is October 13, 1984.

Exhibits must be shipped in containers that are strong enough to ensure that the exhibit will reach its destination in good condition. Light cotton sacks are not strong enough, and should be shipped in a cardboard box with the entry tag.

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Deadline Nears For Royal Entries (cont'd)

All exhibits that are sent directly to the Royal must arrive in Toronto before October 31, 1984. Samples to be shipped by Alberta Agriculture need to be in Lacombe by October 25, and should be addressed to the Field Crops Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Bag Service No.47, Lacombe, Alberta, T0C 1S0.

Prize lists, entry forms and further information are available from district agriculturists' offices or Bill Witbeck at the field crops branch, 742-4641.

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September 24, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINNERS OF 1984 FARM SAFETY CONTEST

The winning entries in this year's farm safety contest can't help but make an impression. One girl's story describes how she was injured when she tried to burn garbage on the ground. A boy tells how his grandmother suffered broken ribs when she was attacked by Friendly, the farm bull. Another child tells of a close call when he tumbled into an irrigation canal.

Solomon Kyeremanteng of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program says that many students drew on personal experience for the stories and posters they submitted in this year's farm safety contest.

The annual contest, which is open to all elementary students in Alberta, attracted 5,000 posters and 1,000 stories this year. The staff of the farm safety program selected the winners on the basis of the safety message they conveyed, and on their style of presentation.

The winning posters and stories are being printed in a workbook entitled "A Child's Guide to Farm Safety." This workbook, along with a teacher's guide and suggested lesson plan, will be available for use in elementary schools.

The farm safety program will also supply a calendar for classroom use. The 1985 edition will feature a drawing dealing with machinery safety, entered by Roland Marsden, a grade three student at Fort Macleod.

During the first week of December, Alberta Agriculture personnel will visit the schools to present the winning students with certificates and copies of the farm safety workbook.

- (cont'd) -

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Winners of 1984 Farm Safety Contest (cont'd)

Following is a list of the winners in the story contest:

Grade 1

Kyle Braun — Lomond
Todd Stewart — Carbon

Grade 2

Real Hryhirchuk — Minburn
Heidi Eggen — Rivercourse

Grade 3

Joe Sturgeon — Cremona
Melissa Van Beeres — Taber

Grade 4

Scott Martens — Coaldale
Mathilda Mandel — Warner

Grade 5

Jeremy Grabas — Innisfree
Curtis Buchs — Cremona

Grade 6

Joseph J. Walder — Claresholm
Mikaela Scott — Wildwood

Following are the winners in the farm safety poster competition:

Grade 1

Elizabeth Smith — Lethbridge
Jerry Wipf — Hanna
Juaneta Del Rio — Busby
Nathan Seatter — Dapp

Grade 2

Tanya Klimp — Sexsmith
Julia Walder — Castor
Maureen Herman — Schuler
Becky Taylor — Eckville

Grade 3

Roland Marsden — Fort Macleod
Cam Buschert — Cremona
Sheri Boschman — Coaldale
Trina Meadows — Taber

Grade 4

Kyle Congdon — Forestburg
Brian Rawson — Forestburg
Ryan Doherty — Cayley
Yvonne Jahns — Forestburg

Additional information on the contests and the workbook can be obtained from Solomon Kyeremanteng, Alberta Farm Safety Program, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

September 24, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STORAGE VEGETABLES IN GOOD SUPPLY

Climbing prices for fresh vegetables during the winter months in Canada make stocking up with locally grown produce a good idea. This can easily be done by visiting the many market gardens located throughout the province or by attending a local farmers' market.

According to Phil Dixon, vegetable specialist with Alberta Agriculture at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton, there is still good selection and a tremendous volume of locally grown vegetables.

Looking back at the season, Mr. Dixon wasn't always sure Alberta growers would have the selection and supply that is now offered. "Growers began with a cool spring which meant a slow start for many crops," he says. "Reseeding had to be done with a lot of crops because of rotting. June and July were normal but in central-northern Alberta, it was the hot August that made the crop respectable. Without the heat to increase the maturity of the crops, an early fall frost could have been devastating."

By dividing the province into areas, it's easier to look at the industry, says Mr. Dixon. Growers in the Peace River valley had a productive year, although they felt the crops were about seven days behind a normal year's harvest schedule. Fort McMurray growers had the same type of year. Edmonton-area growers had their first killing frost on August 29, which took care of the cucumbers. Otherwise, the Edmonton growers had a good year with lots of produce still coming off. Red Deer growers had some hail this year but those who missed the hail report a good year. Southern Alberta growers with irrigation were saved from the dry year, and also report a good year.

- (cont'd) -

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Storage Vegetables in Good Supply (cont'd)

The heat of August has meant a good supply of beets, carrots, onions, cabbage, potatoes, winter squash and rutabagas. These will be available throughout the fall and some into winter. All of these crops are good for storage.

Consumers interested in making sauerkraut, which is a good method of storing cabbage, will be especially pleased with this year's fall cabbage, says Mr. Dixon. The size is large and the quality is excellent.

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AGRI-NEWS

October 1, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Farming For The Future Conference. 1

Honey Forecast. 2

1984 Haymaking Custom Charges. 3

Plan Now For Next Year's Pasture 6

Storing Sprayers 8

Using Granular Applicators 9

Coming Agricultural Events. 10

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October 1, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE CONFERENCE

Farming for the Future is sponsoring a conference in Edmonton on October 24 at which selected scientists and specialists will highlight research supported by the agricultural research fund during its first five years.

Farming for the Future, which began operation in 1979 using Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund monies, began a new three-year mandate on April 1, 1984. So far, more than $22 million has been spent on 343 projects aimed at improving Alberta farmers' net income and the long-term viability of the industry in the province. Some of the projects were on-farm demonstrations, designed to bring scientific advances to the farm level quickly.

Speakers at the conference were chosen from some of the important production areas into which the fund was subdivided. Topics will include livestock disease research, crop variety testing, food processing research, drainage and irrigation technology, and the on-farm demonstration program.

Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, LeRoy Fjordbotten, will address the conference in the evening.

For further information contact Farming for the Future, Alberta Agriculture, Second Floor, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or call 427-1956.

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October 1, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONEY FORECAST

Alberta's honey crop for 1984 will likely be slightly below last year's record production of 25.1 million pounds, according to a recent survey by the statistics branch of Alberta Agriculture.

The decline in production is expected despite an estimated increase of 2,000 colonies over 1983. This reflects a reduction in yield mainly as a result of extremely dry conditions in southern and south-central Alberta where many producers experienced poor yields for the second year in a row.

Michael Adam of the statistics branch estimates that the Peace River region, which has about 37 per cent of the colonies in Alberta, will account for about 50 per cent of the crop. On the other end of the scale, the south-central region (Airdrie, Calgary, Drumheller, Hanna) is expected to account for only about four per cent of the crop.

The survey that produced these findings was part of a national survey of beekeepers, and was co-ordinated by Statistics Canada. Its main purpose was to estimate numbers of beekeepers and producing colonies, and to forecast 1984 honey production.

Detailed results of the survey, including forecasts for other provinces, are available from the Statistics Branch, 3rd Floor, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1984 HAYMAKING CUSTOM CHARGES

Custom rates charged for haymaking this year have increased compared with 1983, according to the annual Alberta Agriculture survey of custom haying operators. The survey was conducted by the statistics branch in cooperation with the farm business management branch in August, 1984.

The following tables summarize the data.

Cutting and Conditioning ($ per acre)

Region	Most common 1984 charges	Most common 1983 charges	Range for 1984
South	$8.00 - $10.00	$6.00 - $8.00	$7.00 - $12.00
Central	$6.00 - $ 7.00	$6.00 - $7.00	$6.00 - $ 7.00
North	$8.00	$5.00 - $7.00	$6.50 - $10.00

Baling — Round ($ per bale)

Region	Most common 1984 charges	Most common 1983 charges	Range for 1984
South	$6.00 - $6.50	$4.50 - $5.25	$5.00 - $7.50
Central	$5.00	$5.00	$4.50 - $7.00
North	$5.00 - $5.50	$4.25 - $6.00	$4.00 - $6.00

	Range for 1984	Range for 1983	Most common 1984 charges
Baling - Square (¢/bale)	25¢ - 45¢	25¢ - 40¢	30¢
Stacking and hauling (¢/bale)	19¢ - 30¢	17¢ - 30¢	25¢ - 30¢

- (cont'd) -

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1984 Haymaking Custom Charges (cont'd)

Long Distance Hay Hauling

(30-40 round bales/load)	(600-750 square bales/load)	Notes
Under 100 miles	$2.25 - $2.75/loaded mile	Charges vary with miles travelled
	$5.50 - $11.00/round bale	
	50¢ - 80 ¢/square bale	
	$13.00 - $22.00/ton	
100 - 200 Miles	$2.30 - $3.00/loaded mile	Most common $2.75/ loaded mile
	85 ¢ /square bale	One report
	$35/ton	One report
Over 200 Miles	$2.75/loaded mile	One report
	$1.25/square bale	One report
	$45/ton	One report

The south region consists of the area from Olds south to the American border; the central region consists of the area from Olds north to Edmonton; and the north region is the area north of Edmonton and includes the Peace River region.

Gerd Andres of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch says that approximately 120 custom operators throughout Alberta were contacted for the report. He says that charges vary among custom operators because of factors such as the type of machinery and its size, overhead costs, the amount of travel involved and the terrain.

1984 Haymaking Custom Charges (cont'd)

Mr. Andres also says that in the spring of 1985 Alberta Agriculture will again publish a directory of farm custom operators in the province. He urges custom operators who have not already contacted the farm business management branch to do so before January 1 if they would like to be included in the directory. It will list each operator's name, his telephone number, his nearest town and the services he provides.

Information on all the main custom operation charges can be obtained from district agriculturists, the statistics branch in Edmonton or the farm business management branch at Olds.

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October 1, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLAN NOW FOR NEXT YEAR'S PASTURE

by Bob Wroe
Supervisor of Range Management, Alberta Agriculture

Of the past 20 years, at least four have proved lean for hay and pasture somewhere in western Canada. For the veteran cattleman, 1984 is just one of those years in which the culling of cows has to be severe, with no excuses for the cow that did not produce a calf.

Another way to save pasture or forage is to wean early and get every unnecessary animal off the place. It doesn't pay to keep animals that are losing weight. This is the year that the year's supply of forage many cattlemen keep in reserve will be depleted.

It is said there is no one poorer than a stockman out of grass. The question is, how does one stay out of that situation? There are a number of ways to save the range and pasture short of selling the herd, but they require planning six to 12 months in advance.

The first priority, I think, must be to buy now all the forage you will need before June 15, 1985. The earlier you buy hay, the better price you are likely to obtain. The Feed and Forage Exchange operated by the Alberta Grain Commission lists hay for sale at eight centres throughout the province. Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturists are also taking the names of farmers who have hay for sale.

Regardless of how much rain and snow we get between now and next June, most pastures, tame or native, will not produce enough to support full grazing early in the season if they are bare now. With stress from drought and grazing pressure this year, pastures will need some preferential treatment in 1985 to get back to normal.

One technique to consider is to fertilize the spring pastures as much as you can afford according to the soil testing recommendations.

- (cont'd) -

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Plan Now For Next Year's Pasture (cont'd)

Two things can happen next spring. We may get enough rain to yield an adequate spring pasture, especially with fertilization now, or 1985 may turn out to be another year of drought. If this is the case, provision for an annual pasture may help. Seeding oats at about two bushels per acre on one-half to one acre per cow will provide a month of grazing six weeks after seeding.

This year has been tough and next year may be worse, but some planning now may help.

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October 1, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STORING SPRAYERS

Proper maintenance, cleaning and storing of sprayers will result in longer trouble-free operation, says Terry Footz of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch.

At the end of the spraying season, correct preparation and storage will mean the sprayer will be ready the next time it is needed. Mr. Footz recommends the following measures for putting sprayers into winter storage:

- Clean the sprayer thoroughly. Drain it completely, including all accessories.
- Remove the pump and store it according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Remove screens, filters and nozzle tips and store them in a sealed container in diesel fuel. Remove the pressure gauge.
- Seal off any openings in the sprayer to prevent the entry of dirt or debris.
- Make a list of any parts needing replacement and order them well in advance of the next spraying season.
- Store the sprayer where it will not be damaged by other equipment or livestock. Polyethylene tanks should be stored under cover to prevent deterioration by sunlight.

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October 1, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USING GRANULAR APPLICATORS

A growing number of Alberta farmers will be using granular herbicide applicators this fall. They can rent or purchase a wide selection of equipment; both gravity-flow and pneumatic applicators are available as pull-type models, implement-mount and skid-mount types.

Terry Footz of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch offers some suggestions to help get accurate coverage with any type of granular applicator.

- Check each outlet on the applicator individually to ensure uniform output.
- Remember that the manufacturer's setting specifications are only a guide.
- Calibrate the applicator daily, because daily changes in humidity can affect the way the granules flow.
- Calibrate the applicator in the field to be treated, or in a field with similar conditions to the one to be treated.
- On turns, shut off the applicator to prevent overlapping and doubling the rate of application.
- Use a marking system to prevent overlapping on successive passes. An applicator mounted on tillage equipment has an advantage because it applies and incorporates the chemical in one pass, and provides a built-in marking system.
- Be sure the deflector plates are mounted according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- Consider using one of several monitors that are available to assist in maintaining uniform application rates.

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COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1984

Poultry Servicemen's Workshop
Lake Louise Inn
Lake Louise, Alberta . . . . . October 1 - 3

Symposium on Land Information Systems
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . October 15 - 19

Farming for the Future Research Conference
(Agriculture Research Council of Alberta)
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . October 24

Round-up '84 Fall Agriculture Show
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . October 24 - 28

Alberta Simmental Association Annual Meeting
Stampede Grounds
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . October 25

National Outstanding Young Farmer Program
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . October 26 - 30

Northlands Farmfair
Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 1 -11

Alberta Honey Producers' Co-operative Ltd. — Annual Meeting
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 6

Taking Stock 1984 — Livestock Outlook Conference
Convention Inn South
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 6 - 7

Optimum Tillage Challenge
Saskatoon Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 6 - 8

United Grain Growers Ltd. — Annual Meeting
Convention Centre
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . November 7 - 8

Alberta Beekeepers' Association Annual Convention
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 7 - 9

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Lethbridge 3rd Annual Swine Fair
Exhibition Grounds
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . November 8 - 9

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
Exhibition Park
Toronto, Ontario. . . . . November 8 - 17

Seed Technology Workshop
Olds College
Olds, Alberta. . . . . November 13 - 15

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association — Annual Conference
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . November 19

Creating A Balance — Farm Wives' Conference
Fairview College
Fairview, Alberta. . . . . November 21 - 22

Canadian Western Agribition and Mexabition
Exhibition Grounds
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 24 - 30

Alberta Wheat Pool Annual Meeting
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . November 26 - December 7

International Silo Safety Conference
Valhalla Inn
Kitchener, Ontario . . . . . November 28 - 29

Seed For Profit
Marketing Seminar for the Seed Industry
Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . November 29 - 30

Christian Farmers' Federation — Annual Convention
Leduc, Alberta . . . . . November 30

Alberta Cattle Commission Annual General Meeting
Westin Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . December 3 - 5

Alberta 4-H Leaders' Conference
Convention Inn
Edmonton, Alberta. . . . . December 3 - 5

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

"Halfway To 21st Century"
National Farmers' Union – 15th National Convention
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island . . . . . December 3 - 7

Canadian Agricultural Outlook Conference
Ottawa Conference Centre
Ottawa, Ontario . . . . . December 10 - 11

Winter Meeting of American Society of Agricultural Engineers
Hyatt Regency
New Orleans
Louisiana, U.S.A. . . . . December 11 - 14

1985

Annual Interprovincial Alfalfa Seed School
Regina Inn
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . January 13 - 15

Alberta Pork Seminar
Banff, Alberta . . . . . January 16 - 18

Alberta Limousin Association Annual Meeting
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . January 31

Canadian Limousin Association Annual Meeting
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . February 1 - 2

Alberta Dairymen's Association Annual Meeting and Convention
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . February 4 - 6

What's In Stock For You?
(Beef Seminar)
Saskatoon Travelodge
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . February 5 - 7

Canadian Charolais Association Annual Meeting and Convention
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . February 7 - 9

Accent '85
Market Prospects for Grains and Oilseeds
Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . March 5 - 6

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Agriculture Week
Province of Alberta . . . . . March 10 - 16

Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame
Westin Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . March 15

Northlands Western
Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . March 26 - 30

World Angus Forum
Convention Centre
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 17 - 22

Canadian Western Agribition and Mexabition
Exhibition Grounds
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 23 - 29

1986

World Sheep Congress
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . July 5 - 16

AGRI-NEWS

October 8, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Canola Sold To Mexico 6

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Transplanting Lodgepole Pines 15

Winter Survival Of Lawns 16

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October 8, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of the area to be covered by the livestock drought assistance program have been established, and application forms are now available at Alberta Agriculture's district offices.

Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, LeRoy Fjordbotten, announced the details of the program after a meeting in Regina October 1 with the federal minister of agriculture and the ministers of agriculture from Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The general drought area consists of ID 8, County 17, MDs 47 and 48, Special Areas 2 and 4, and all districts south of this line. In addition, the following areas to the north are included:

- the parts of Counties 6 and 18 located south of the 10th Base Line (the north boundary of Township 36).
- the part of County 23 bounded by the 10th Base Line on the North, and by the west side of Range 23 on the west.
- the part of ID 10 bounded on the north by the north side of Township 40.

A portion of this area will be designated as "severe" once the drought damage is fully assessed, probably around the first of November.

Producers within the general drought area will be eligible for a grant of $30 per bred cow or heifer and $6 per bred ewe or goat, to a maximum of 85 per cent of their herds. Producers within the severe drought area will receive an additional $18 per cow or $4 per ewe or goat at a later date.

- (cont'd) -

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Livestock Assistance Program Boundaries (cont'd)

Payments under this program will be made according to the numbers of livestock in each herd on August 1, 1984. To receive full payment, a producer must keep at least 75 per cent of his August 1 inventory until April 1, 1985.

Producers who do not plan to keep 75 per cent of their August 1, 1984 herds may still apply under the program. They will receive payments based on their intended April 1, 1985 inventory. A final adjustment will be made in the grants to these producers after their actual April 1 livestock numbers are known. Some producers will receive extra grants at that time; others will have to repay part of their grants.

Random inspections will be made to verify both August 1, 1984 and April 1, 1985 livestock inventories.

The $30 per cow or equivalent payments will be made as soon as possible after each application is received. The deadline for applying under the program is December 14, 1984.

The cost of the $30 million livestock assistance program in Alberta is being shared by the federal and provincial governments. The program is intended to assist producers in maintaining their breeding herds through what is expected to be an extended and costly winter feeding season, said Mr. Fjordbotten. He estimates that between 12,000 and 13,000 Alberta producers will be eligible for the assistance.

Application forms and complete details of the program are available from Alberta Agriculture's district offices. Producers can also get information by phoning the local RITE telephone number or 422-5300 in Edmonton.

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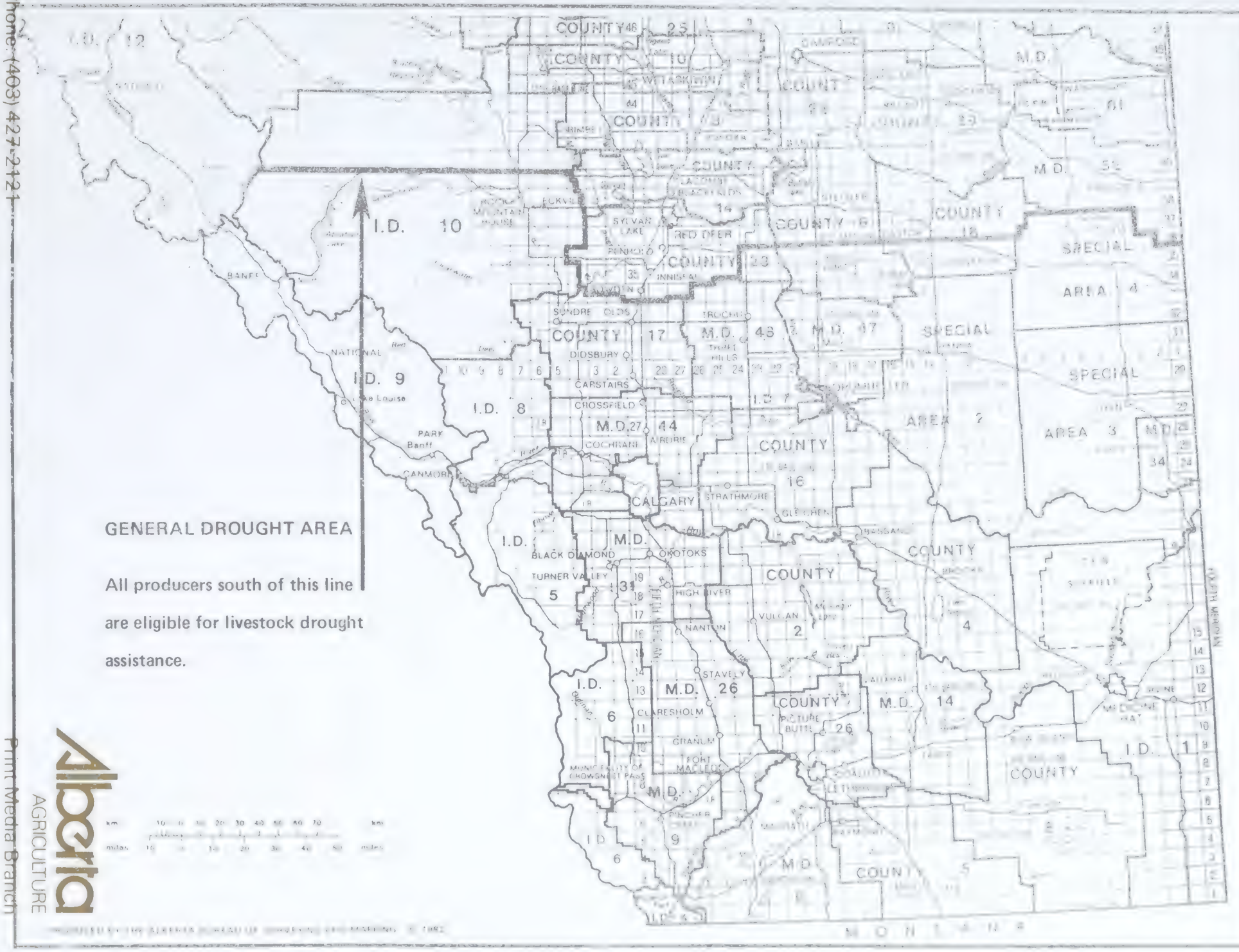
The map on the opposite page shows the boundaries of the general drought area.



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Print Media Branch

October 8, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Canada's wheat production for this year is estimated at 20.4 million tonnes, a 23 per cent reduction from last year. On a world scale, however, wheat production is likely to reach a record 499 million tonnes.

Dwayne Couldwell, Alberta Agriculture's grain market analyst, says that the reduction of 6.2 million tonnes in the Canadian wheat crop will be overshadowed by increases in the European Economic Community and China.

Unfortunately, Canada's misfortune won't necessarily translate into higher prices either, he warns. Not only is the world wheat crop the largest ever, but the carryover from 1983-84 is also likely to set a record of 102 million tonnes. "Wheat prices will therefore probably remain low in the foreseeable future," he says.

Canadian wheat carryover from 1983-84 was 9.3 million tonnes, well below the 10-year average of 11 million tonnes. Added to this year's reduced crop yield, this brings total Canadian wheat stocks to about 29 million tonnes or seven million tonnes lower than last year.

The lower crop size will mean fewer restraints on grain handling capacity, so Mr. Couldwell anticipates that carryover will be minimized at around eight million tonnes, a low not seen since the mid-1970s. This would put the maximum level of wheat exports at about 16 million tonnes, a 26 per cent reduction from last year.

Quotas in the coming crop year can be expected to be large, if not completely open, says Mr. Couldwell. Elevator space should be abundant in the southern prairies and become quickly available in the north.

- (cont'd) -

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Wheat Situation And Outlook (cont'd)

Domestically, non-board wheat prices have maintained a strong premium to the Canadian Wheat Board initial payments, especially in the feedmill markets. Mr. Couldwell questions whether such premiums can be maintained and says, "It seems prudent for farmers with lower quality wheat to consider selling at current feedmill bids."

As for export prospects, Mr. Couldwell notes two developments. One is that the Soviet crop has continued to deteriorate, and the USDA now estimates it at 175 million tonnes, down from 195 million tonnes last year. Soviet grain imports are expected to reach 46 million tonnes, including 24 million tonnes of wheat.

A second significant development on the world scene is that China has become the world's largest wheat producer, with a record crop this year of 84 million tonnes, up from 81 million tonnes in 1983. Considering that China's previous five-year average wheat crop was 60 million tonnes, many traders are questioning the future of long-term wheat purchases by the Chinese. In the short term China is expected to maintain imports because of internal transportation restraints.

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October 8, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One in a series of articles recognizing October as Export Trade Month

CANOLA SOLD TO MEXICO

This month 20,000 tonnes of canola seed from western Canada are being shipped from Vancouver to the port of Guaymas on Mexico's west coast. This is the third such shipment this year,

and part of more than 120,000 tonnes the Mexicans have bought for delivery in 1984.

These sales are a breakthrough in getting canola into the Mexican market on a continuing basis, says John Latham of Alberta Agriculture's market development sector. He notes that Alberta growers produce more than 40 per cent of the Canadian canola crop.

"The potential of the Mexican market is enormous," says Mr. Latham. In 1982 Mexico imported over 200,000 tonnes of oilseed meal and nearly three million tonnes of oilseeds despite ongoing attempts to increase its own vegetable oilseed production.

"A five per cent share of the market would mean $4 million in meal sales and $44 million in seed sales each year, an amount we are quickly approaching," he says.

Alberta Agriculture's market development sector, working with the federal government, the other prairie provinces and industry, has spent five years in promoting and testing canola in Mexico.

During exchanges with members of the Mexican crushing and feeding industry early in 1981 it became clear that the Mexicans were concerned about the lack of research into the use of canola meal with sorghum, the principal energy ingredient in their livestock rations. Alberta Agriculture's marketing sector addressed this concern by arranging a canola meal seminar in Mexico City, and setting up trials in 1982 using canola meal in poultry and hog rations.

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Canola Sold To Mexico (cont'd)

The trials, which concluded late last year, showed that canola meal could effectively replace all of the traditional protein source, soybean meal, in hog rations and up to 15 per cent in poultry rations. Since feed rations throughout much of Latin America are similar, Mr. Latham says these results can be used elsewhere in the region to aid the marketing of canola.

To further support these initial research findings, larger trials using canola meal began in commercial hog and poultry operations in Mexico in September. These trials are being carried out using 18 tonnes of meal donated by a Canadian consortium with Alberta Agriculture acting as the co-ordinator.

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October 8, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED FOR RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The deadline for advance registration for the Farming for the Future research conference has passed, but walk-in registrations will be accepted on the day of the conference, October 24.

People may register at the Edmonton Inn between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. that day or as long as space is available. The fee for those registering at the door is $10, which includes conference sessions but not meals.

The purpose of the conference is to highlight research supported by the agricultural research fund during its first five years. Topics will include livestock disease research, crop variety testing, food processing research, drainage and irrigation technology, and the on-farm demonstration program.

Farming for the Future began operation in 1979 using Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund monies. More than $22 million has been spent on 343 projects.

Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, LeRoy Fjordbotten, will address the conference in the evening.

For further information, please contact Farming for the Future, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or call 427-1956.

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October 8, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA'S LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

A survey estimates that on July 1, 1984, Alberta's pig population had reached an 11-year high, while the province's cattle population was the lowest since 1971.

These estimates are based on the report of livestock inventories conducted by Statistics Canada in cooperation with Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch.

Pig numbers on Alberta farms were estimated at 1,400,000 head, an increase of 12 per cent from July 1, 1983. This raised Alberta's share of the Canadian pig population from 12 per cent to 13 per cent during the year.

Meanwhile, the numbers of both cattle and sheep in Alberta appeared to be down from one year ago. Cattle numbers declined two per cent to 3,780,000 while sheep decreased by four per cent to 190,000. Alberta's share of the total Canadian cattle and sheep populations remained relatively unchanged, however, at about 30 per cent and 24 per cent respectively.

Nationally, pig numbers increased by four per cent to 10,286,000 head while cattle and sheep numbers decreased by three per cent and two per cent respectively, to 12,309,000 and 790,800 head.

Using the results of the survey, Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch has estimated the livestock numbers for each of the province's 15 census divisions. These estimates have been published along with other survey statistics, and copies can be obtained from the Statistics Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 3rd Floor, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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October 8, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMPUTERS IN EXTENSION

Between 1981 and 1983 the mailing list for Alberta Agriculture's farm computer newsletter grew from 400 names to 2,200. During the same time attendance at the extension-sponsored computer fair jumped from 200 to 4,000. The home study course on computers is the most popular the department has ever offered, drawing 800 subscriptions in four weeks and with 6,000 expected by the end of the year.

These are examples of how the interest in and desire for computer information is growing among farmers, said Alan Hall, Alberta Agriculture's regional director at Red Deer, while addressing the Canadian Society of Extension in Winnipeg.

"The call for computer-aided extension information has come loud and clear from the client himself," he said.

A survey of 2,500 Alberta farmers last spring showed that 62 per cent think it would be useful if they could get information via computer at district offices. Mr. Hall said that availability of such computers could bring a payback estimated in the millions of dollars. This would include both cost savings, and increased income if farmers were to use computer programs for such things as herbicide recommendations, ration formulations and farm business management.

"Computers can do the number crunching that used to take hours," said Mr. Hall. "That frees extension staff to discuss and analyse alternatives with clients instead of just identifying them."

Alberta Agriculture gained some experience in introducing computers last year at the district office in Westlock which served as testing ground for several computer programs. In one day, with the computer set up at a local chemical dealership, 30 to 40 farmers came

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Computers In Extension (cont'd) -

for help in planning their herbicide programs. "Many farmers took the computer printout right over to the sales counter and ordered exactly what the sheet specified," Mr. Hall said.

A computer program came to the rescue when the federal ROP program bogged down in paperwork. "A staff member at Westlock developed a program that enabled us to produce a client's ROP results during the time it took him to have a cup of coffee," said Mr. Hall. "Had the computer been portable, he'd have had the results before we left his farm with the scale."

The loans officer at Westlock also developed a program showing how cash flow would be altered by changes in any production input. On one occasion this program, with its capacity for "what-if" games, in the client's own words, "saved me from making a serious mistake."

The greatest roadblock to computer use in extension, once the equipment is made available, is the time it takes extension workers to learn to use computers. "But it is both necessary and worthwhile for us to take that time," said Mr. Hall.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1984 SILAGE CUSTOM CHARGES

Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch and farm business management branch have released the results of a survey of the rates charged for custom silage operations. The survey was conducted in August of this year.

The tables below summarize the results. The rates quoted were gathered mainly in three regions: south (County 26 and M.D. 14), central (Counties 17 and 23) and north (M.D. 92).

Region	Range for 1984	Range for 1983	Notes
Forage Harvesting			
South	$100/hr	$3.00 - $6.00/tonne	One report
Central	$ 60-$180/hr	—	Capacity 20-50 ton/hr
North	$ 90/hr	$3.25 - $5.00/tonne	One report
Hauling			
South	$ 40-$65/hr	$1.00 - $1.60/tonne	
Central	$ 30-$40/hr	$1.30 - $2.00/tonne	Most common $30/hr
North	$ 35/hr	$1.80/tonne	One report
Swathing			
South	$ 8/ac	$5.00 - $11.00/ac	One report
Central	$ 5.00-$6.75/ac	—	Most common $5-$6
North	$ 8/ac	—	One report

According to the survey, the cost for packing ranged from $50 to $60 per hour. The survey also quoted the cost of complete and partial custom silage operations. Swathing, harvesting, hauling and packing ranged from $7 to $12 per tonne. Harvesting, hauling and packing ranged from $100 to $190 per hour. One report placed the cost of harvesting, hauling and silo press for a 130-to 140-ton bag at $1,800 .

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1984 Silage Custom Charges (cont'd)

Gerd Andres, farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, says it is hard to compare this year's charges with last year's because in 1983 most custom operators quoted charges in tonnes, while this year most quoted on a per-hour basis.

Mr. Andres says that the range in custom silage charges may be due to the type of silage crop, harvesting capacity per hour, the number of hauling units and the size of the tractor used with the dozer blade.

Information on all the main custom operation charges in Alberta can be obtained from district agriculturists, the statistics branch in Edmonton or the farm business management branch in Olds.

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October 8, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARKET GARDENERS TO FORM ASSOCIATION

The age-old practice of selling fresh vegetables direct to the consumer is thriving in Alberta, with over 300 market gardeners producing 1,700 acres of vegetables each year.

A meeting is planned for November 20 in Red Deer with the aim of establishing an association to represent the interests of these market gardeners. "Many growers have expressed interest in forming such a group for several years now," says Lloyd Hausher, Alberta Agriculture's market garden specialist.

Any grower who produces a minimum of two acres of vegetables for direct sale to consumers is classified as a market gardener, Mr. Hausher adds. Farm gate sales are the main marketing outlet for these growers, but some also sell through farmers' markets.

Market garden acreage in Alberta has increased by at least 10 per cent annually during recent years.

Anyone who would like more information about the proposed association or the meeting can contact Lloyd Hausher at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks, telephone 362-3391.

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October 8, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRANSPLANTING LODGEPOLE PINES

Now that the lodgepole pine or *Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia* is Alberta's provincial tree, more and more people are interested in transplanting it into their yards. The extension horticulturists at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre recommend that special care be used when handling the tree in order to ensure a successful move.

Lodgepole pines are very sensitive to root damage and transplant shock. This means that the percentage of successful transplants increases as the size of the tree decreases. A tree that is two to 2.5 metres tall is about the maximum height that should be selected for transplanting.

The time to transplant a pine is during April and May, just before the buds break, and during September and October. Autumn is preferable as long as the tree has four to six weeks before freeze-up to become established.

When digging out a lodgepole pine, try to take a maximum amount of roots. The majority of the tree's feeder roots are located at or beyond the drip-line of the tree. (The drip-line is the circle around the trunk formed by the outer tips of the branches.)

To dig out the rootball, use a sharp shovel or spade. Do not use one of those hydraulic tree diggers commonly seen on the back of a large truck. These machines cause the clay in our soils to "glaze over," which permanently prevents the movement of water and the penetration of new roots.

These guidelines are for the special care required when transplanting lodgepole pines. It is recommended that you still follow the standard transplanting procedures for site preparation, planting and post-planting care. This information can be obtained from extension horticulturists, most gardening books, or the booklet *Transplanting Alberta Trees and Shrubs* (Agdex 275/22-1) from the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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October 8, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINTER SURVIVAL OF LAWNS

Those brown patches that appear in the lawn in spring can be prevented now. "The damage is generally caused by winter kill, and proper care in the fall can help," says Betty Vladicka of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre.

Fertilizer should not be applied after August 15, to allow the grass growth to slow down and harden off for winter.

Homeowners should water their lawns less. At freeze-up, however, enough water should be applied to thoroughly moisten the top 12-15 centimetres. This decreases the drying effects of winter and spring soil heaving.

Raising the cutting height of the lawn provides some insulation. A recommended height is between four and five centimetres, says Ms. Vladicka.

During the winter, homeowners should avoid walking over a lawn that is frozen but has little snow cover. Heavy snow and ice can suffocate a lawn; therefore,these areas should be broken up.

Good maintenance practices keep a lawn looking its best.

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AGRI-NEWS

October 15, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 1, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One in a series of articles recognizing October as Export Trade Month.

TRADE BRINGS FAR EAST NEARER

The Far East isn't quite as far from Alberta as it once seemed.

"Increased trade, tourism and other ties are beginning to make the Far East seem more like the Near West," says Jackson Gardner, an international trade director with Alberta Agriculture.

Alberta's growing agricultural trade with the Pacific Rim is part of what some trade specialists view as a shift in Alberta's trade emphasis from the Atlantic region to the Pacific.

"Our trade relationship with Japan at this stage can be compared with Canada's relationship with Europe about 50 years ago," says Mr. Gardner.

For the past decade Alberta's industry and government have worked to build up the trust and confidence that must precede business dealings in the Far East. "In North America we're used to a brisk style of doing business: show the product, get out the order book, close the deal," says Mr. Gardner. In countries like Korea and Japan, buyers like to get to know and trust the people they're buying from, a process that can — and often does — take years.

An Alberta company encountering this delicate and drawn-out process for the first time may find it frustrating — but it also offers a benefit: once established, these trade relationships aren't usually broken as readily as they might be in North America, says Mr. Gardner.

Japan is only 70 per cent self-sufficient in food production, and last year bought $400 million worth of agricultural products from Alberta. Leading the list of imports were canola seed, grain, alfalfa, mustard seed and beef.

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Trade Brings Far East Nearer (cont'd)

As time goes on, products processed in Alberta are making up a greater portion of the sales to Japan. "Ten years ago 80 per cent of what we sold to Japan was raw product," says Mr. Gardner. "By 1987 I hope that raw product will be down to 60 per cent of our total sales."

Alberta's marketing efforts in Japan are still being fine-tuned as industry and government pinpoint areas where we can be competitive. Beef is a case in point. "For years Alberta promoted its most expensive beef cuts in Japan," recalls Mr. Gardner. These efforts succeeded, at least to the point that buyers found the quality acceptable. Unfortunately, the United States offered a better price.

But six months ago Alberta Agriculture's market development sector discovered we could compete, both in terms of quality and price, for a share of the market for mid-priced beef cuts like chucks, plates and briskets, of which Japan imports about 30,000 tons each year. Even a 10 per cent share of that market would be worth about $60 million per year. A group of Japanese meat buyers will visit Alberta this month to meet with industry.

Developing markets in Japan takes money, time and patience. But, says Mr. Gardner, the potential of the market makes the investment well worthwhile.

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October 15, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCATE FEED SUPPLIES NOW

Dwight Karren, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock supervisor at Lethbridge, advises calf producers expecting feed shortages for their cows to determine their feed requirements and secure additional supplies early.

The first step is to decide on the number of cattle to be wintered. Certainly open cows should be culled, and with the feed shortage, older cows, poorer producing cows, and problem cows probably also should be culled.

The second step in determining feed requirements is to determine the requirements of each class of cow to be fed. Feed requirements will depend upon the cow's age, size, breed, condition, and the stage of her productive cycle. The quality of the feed and the severity of the winter will also be important factors. Younger, larger, heavy milking breeds in poor fall condition will require more or better quality feed. As an example, a 1,100-pound mature, dry cow early in the winter will require 20 pounds of grass hay or 18 pounds of alfalfa hay. A 900-pound bred heifer would require a similar amount of hay. A 1,000-pound wet cow would require 25 pounds of alfalfa/grass hay for 10 pounds of milk production or 30 pounds of hay for 20 pounds of milk production. During cold weather, cows will require five pounds more hay for every 10 degrees C that the temperature is below minus 20 degrees C at midday.

Calf producers on southern ranges and whose herds are calving in the late spring don't normally expect to feed wet cows too long before going to grass. This coming spring could be different, says Mr. Karren. Many pastures and ranges were overgrazed this past season and may not recover early next spring without excellent growing conditions.

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October 15, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

The value of Alberta's out-of country exports of agricultural products in 1983 is estimated at $2,116 million, a 10 per cent increase over 1982. Agricultural exports from Canada as a whole increased by 2.5 per cent during the same time.

This information comes from a newly-released publication, *Agricultural Exports 1983*, compiled by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch.

Nithi Govindasamy, a trade statistician with the branch, points out that in 1983, products from Alberta accounted for approximately 21 per cent of total Canadian agricultural exports.

In 1983 Japan replaced the U.S.S.R. as the leading importer of Alberta's agricultural commodities, purchasing an estimated $430 million worth of goods. Following Japan, Alberta's most important trading partners were the U.S.S.R. ($411 million), China ($222 million), the United States ($204 million) and the United Kingdom ($80 million).

Together these five countries bought an estimated 67 per cent of Alberta's agricultural exports in 1983.

Alberta's other main buyers in 1983 were East Germany, Brazil, Cuba, The Netherlands, Italy, Iran, Algeria, Iraq, Belgium, Mexico, India, Bangladesh, South Korea and Taiwan.

Copies of the publication *Agricultural Exports 1983* are available from the Statistics Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 3rd Floor, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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October 15, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WOMEN'S GROUPS TO CONTACT DISABLED FARMERS

When an industrial worker is injured, the accident and its effects are usually well documented.

Little is known, however, about farmers who are disabled as the result of an accident or illness — how many resume farming, ways they adapt equipment or their methods of operation, or problems the disability may create.

This fall two farm women's groups in Alberta are joining forces to identify the number of farmers who are disabled, and to find out whether there are services or programs that might be helpful to these farmers.

The Alberta Women's Institutes (W.I.) and the Women of Unifarm have formed a co-ordinating committee to carry out the project with some help from Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program. The project is being co-ordinated by Dorothy Williams of the W.I. and Louise Christianson of the Women of Unifarm.

The first step is to identify farmers who are disabled, the types of disabilities they have, and the cause of the disabilities. In November the members of the approximately 350 local groups of the W.I. and Women of Unifarm will be asked to survey their districts. This information should be gathered by mid to late November.

The second part of the project is to decide on programs that might assist disabled farmers. Such programs might include newsletters, workshops or the formation of an association. Information that might be distributed could range from news about modifications to farm machinery, to ways of dealing with the stress that a disability causes.

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Women's Groups To Contact Disabled Farmers (cont'd)

Farmers tend to be individualists who work quietly at solving their own problems, Mrs. Williams notes. But some who have suffered accidents say they would like contact with others who have had similar experiences. Solomon Kyeremanteng of the farm safety program has had at least six phone calls from disabled farmers wondering if there is a group they could join. Another indication of interest is that a conference for disabled farmers held several years ago in Winnipeg attracted about 70 people.

Anyone who would like more information about the W.I. – Women of Unifarm project is invited to contact Mrs. Dorothy Williams, Cessford, Alberta, TOJ OPO, or Mrs. Louise Christianson, Box 7, Sedalia, Alberta, TOL 3CO.

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October 15, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAIL AND TRUCK FREIGHT RATES INCREASE

Rail rates for livestock shipments to eastern Canada will increase by four per cent between October 15, 1984 and December 31, 1984.

Nabi Chaudhary, agricultural transportation economist with Alberta Agriculture, says this is the sixth consecutive year that the railways have increased their rates for shipping livestock during the October to December period.

For example, the rate charged for a double deck car will increase from $4,026.83 to $4,286.30. The rate for a single deck car will increase from $2,088.53 to $2,221.28.

On January 1, 1985, the rates will revert to the levels in effect before October 15, and these rates will apply until March 31, 1985. If the railways increase their rates on April 1, 1985, Mr. Chaudhary expects the changes to be announced well in advance.

Commercial truck transportation rates for the inter-provincial movement of agricultural commodities were increased by five per cent on July 2, 1984 for westbound traffic and on September 2 for eastbound traffic.

Because of the competition among carriers for business, Mr. Chaudhary does not expect these rates to increase further for at least one year.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEEKEEPERS KEEP BUSY

With Alberta producing about 30 per cent of Canada's honey crop, the province's beekeepers have a special interest in promoting October as Honey Month.

To mark Honey Month they will hold special events in stores, county fairs and farmers' markets across the province, says Don MacDonald, Alberta Agriculture's provincial apiarist.

Alberta's 1,700 beekeepers annually produce around 24 million pounds of honey, most of which is shipped out of the province to markets throughout Canada, the United States and Europe.

Canada's 1984 honey crop is expected to reach a record, so marketing will be high on the list of topics when the Alberta Beekeepers' Association holds its 51st annual convention at the Mayfield Inn in Edmonton on November 7, 8 and 9, 1984.

The keynote speaker for the convention will be Dr. Gard Otis of the University of Guelph. He will discuss honeybee size and its relationship to honey production; Acarine, a honeybee pest recently found in the United States; and Africanized bees. Among the other speakers are Darryl Wenner, a package bee producer from California, and Dr. Tibor Szabo of the Beaverlodge Research Station.

The convention will also feature the largest exhibition of beekeeping equipment in Canada, shown by manufacturers and retailers from across North America.

Anyone wishing to attend the convention or display their goods should contact the Alberta Beekeepers' business office at No.24, 7215 - 147 Avenue, Edmonton, telephone 475-3314.

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October 15, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SALES TAX BREAK FOR FARMERS

Some farmers may be paying more than they have to for farm equipment, lumber, steel, cement or other supplies by not taking advantage of federal sales tax exemptions.

The one per cent increase in federal sales tax October 1 makes this exemption all the more valuable.

Alan Schideler, farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture, explains that The Excise Tax Act provides for two types of exemptions: unconditional and conditional. Most farm equipment has an unconditional exemption, meaning no sales tax is included in its price. Conditional exemptions apply to multi-purpose items like electrical wire, cable, pipes, welding equipment and garden tractors. When a farmer incorporates such items into production equipment, he is not required to pay sales tax, although it is normally included in the price.

Conditional sales tax exemptions are available only when the multi-purpose items are used in production or manufacturing. For example, the materials used to build a hog barn are not considered tax exempt but the materials used for pens, feeding systems and farrowing crates may be. In a beef operation, materials used for fences, corrals and pole shed barns are not exempt but materials used to build self-feeders, feed-bunks and hay-wagons may be. When a farmer buys an item like a hay-wagon already assembled, the federal sales tax is already included in the price, but if the farmer signs an end-user certificate, the retailer will deduct the federal tax.

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Sales Tax Break For Farmers (cont'd)

To claim a refund on multi-purpose items, a farmer must do the calculations on form N15 from Revenue Canada and send it to the nearest district excise office. A second way of claiming a tax exemption is to have the retailer or manufacturer indicate on the invoice the actual sales tax paid. That amount is fully refundable. Claims take an average of six weeks for processing.

Different refund rates apply to different materials and equipment. As a guide, for every $100 spent on lumber at the retail level, the refund will be $2.50.

Farmers may go back four years to claim refunds. If, during that time you've bought any multi-purpose items, it might be worth the time and effort to see whether the sales tax can be refunded.

This article mentions only a few of the many exemptions available to farmers. For further information, please contact the district office of Revenue Canada Customs and Excise in your area. In Edmonton, the phone number is 420-3420; in Calgary, 231-5678.

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October 15, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST AT LACOMBE

Barbara P. Ogilvie has been appointed Alberta Agriculture's district home economist (DHE) at Lacombe. The head of the home economics branch, Shirley Myers, made the announcement.

In her new position, Ms. Ogilvie will provide programs relating to home economics, 4-H and Nutrition at School. The role of women in agriculture will receive some emphasis in the district.

Ms. Ogilvie grew up on a grain farm near Regina. In 1976 she graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon with a B.Ed. in art and home economics, and in 1980 she received a B.Sc. in home economics, majoring in housing.

Since 1982 Ms. Ogilvie has been employed as Alberta Agriculture's home design specialist in the Red Deer regional office.

Residents of the Lacombe area are invited to meet their new DHE at an open house at the district office on Tuesday October 30 between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

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October 15, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OUTSTANDING 4-H'ERS RECEIVE AWARDS

The winners of the Alberta Wheat Board Surplus Monies Trust scholarships for 1984 have been chosen.

Seven students, one from each 4-H region, will each receive $400 to be used toward their first year in a degree or diploma program at any post-secondary institution in Alberta. The students were selected on the basis of community involvement and outstanding 4-H achievement.

The winners are:

- Penni Holthe of Turin, studying psychology at the University of Lethbridge
- Shelley Treacy of Hussar, studying commerce at the University of Calgary
- Heather Brown of Byemoor, studying pharmacy at the University of Alberta
- Shannon Gordeyko of Ohaton, studying home economics at the University of Alberta
- Charlotte Samis of Bon Accord, studying general science at the University of Alberta
- Lynn Misick of Vermilion, studying arts at the University of Calgary
- Lisa Nagge of Fairview, studying nursing at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton

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October 15, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEEDLE SHED OF EVERGREENS

At this time of year many people notice their spruce and pine trees turning yellow or brown. Autumn browning and needle shed is a natural process often confused with injury or disease, says Betty Vladicka, extension horticulturist at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre.

Most species of spruce, fir, pine, cedar and juniper shed their older foliage in the fall. Normally scots, lodgepole and Austrian pines retain their needles for three to four years, while spruce and fir trees keep theirs for over five years. Pines occasionally shed some of their three-year old needles in late spring as well as in the fall.

Usually, annual needle drop occurs gradually and goes unnoticed. New growth conceals the old foliage that has turned yellow or brown. In other words, seasonal discoloration isn't often visible unless you look for it on the inner branches. Occasionally, however, a large proportion of a tree discolors all at once, causing considerable concern.

Any factor that decreases an evergreen's vigor will cause premature leaf drop. Examples of these factors are wet soils, drought, transplant shock, poor soil fertility, soil salinity, winter injury and pesticide damage. Normal growth usually results when the appropriate remedial actions are taken. Since lost foliage cannot be regenerated, however, a tree can look thin or sparse for several years.

If you're unsure whether your trees' shedding of needles is due to the season, or an insect or disease problem, you could check with a specialist or an extension horticulturist.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANOLA SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Canadian supplies of canola will be very tight in the 1984-85 crop year, with little room for any increase in consumption, says Dwayne Couldwell, Alberta Agriculture's grain market analyst.

The Canadian canola yield for 1984 is now estimated at 19.4 bushels per acre, down from 20.1 bushels per acre in 1983. In spite of a 26 per cent rise in canola acreage in 1984, production is forecast to rise by only 22 per cent, with the total crop estimated at 3 206 million tonnes.

That will be enough to replenish carryover, which at 112,000 tonnes on July 31 was the lowest since 1970 and the second lowest of the past 20 years.

Mr. Couldwell expects that during 1984-85 Canadian canola exports will be almost unchanged from 1983-84, about 1.5 million tonnes. Japan will continue to be Canada's major buyer, but canola exports to Europe will be reduced because this year's European crop was much larger than last year's. The European rapeseed crop is now estimated at 5.64 million tonnes, up by over 1.3 million tonnes from 1983-84.

"This larger European crop will compete with Canadian exports and prevent the runaway prices of last year," says Mr. Couldwell.

Domestic crush can be expected to increase only modestly, he adds. He projects crush to rise to 1.2 million tonnes from 1.159 million tonnes last year. Industry capacity is 1.5 million tonnes.

Oilseed prices, as usual, will be dominated by the U.S. soybean market, which is currently showing a downward trend. "The U.S. market is preoccupied with a substantial production increase in 1984, but is ignoring the more favorable comparison with 1982-83," Mr. Couldwell says. He expects better markets early in 1985, especially for canola.

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This article is based on information that was current to October 15, 1984.

Alberta
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October 22, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONEY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

The price paid to producers for bulk, unprocessed honey is not likely to change much during the coming months from its present level of $1.25 per kilogram, says Alberta Agriculture's special commodities analyst, Fred Boyce.

Alberta's 1984 honey crop is estimated at 11.1 million kilograms, three per cent less than last year. Prolonged dry weather in the south was to blame for the reduction, with yields in drought-affected areas reduced to half the long-term average. In the north-central and north-east regions, yields were generally in line with long-term figures.

In northwest Alberta and the Peace River region, favorable conditions led to above-normal yields. Hives in the northwest produced 63 kilograms on average and those in the Peace River region averaged 87 kilograms. Average yields for these areas are 60 and 75 kilograms respectively.

Overall in 1984, Canada's honey production is expected to reach a record of 44.1 million kilograms, 13.8 per cent ahead of the previous record, which was established in 1983.

Strong export sales will be needed to market the 1984 crop, says Mr. Boyce. During 1983-84 Canada's honey exports increased by 45 per cent over the previous year, with the United States taking 78 per cent of these exports, and other countries also increasing their purchases. Canada's honey exports for 1983-84 were valued at $20 million.

Although shipments of Canadian honey to the U.S. are well ahead of last year's, Mr. Boyce says that recent U.S. customs rulings may affect future imports of honey. All honey must now be labelled with its point of origin, and if U.S. consumers prove willing to pay more for locally produced product, honey imports could decrease.

Promotional efforts by the honey industry should maintain, if not increase, per capita honey usage in Canada, resulting in total domestic usage of 25 million kilograms.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE WEATHER PICTURE

Alberta Agriculture's newest film, *The Weather Picture*, could not be more timely: it deals with weather and how it affects agriculture.

Last summer while producer Tom Dodd worked on the film, prairie farmers suffered the worst drought in 50 years, dramatic evidence of how vulnerable agriculture is to weather.

The Weather Picture will be shown on television throughout Alberta in early November, and it's as much for urban people as for rural residents.

"We in the cities are largely cushioned from the weather, while farmers are exposed to it daily," says Mr. Dodd. Part of the purpose of *The Weather Picture* is to give urban people an appreciation of what farmers go through in order to produce food.

There's an old saying that everyone talks about the weather but no one does anything about it. As *The Weather Picture* shows, that's not entirely true anymore; research is turning up many ways to help farmers work around the weather, if not overcome it.

The film shows how satellites and computers are making weather forecasting quicker and more accurate, how plant breeders are developing crop varieties that grow more quickly and resist frost and drought, and how water management makes agricultural production possible in dry southern Alberta.

The Weather Picture examines the progress being made in modifying the weather through cloud seeding to minimize hail damage in the area between Edmonton and Calgary. The film points out how crop insurance gives farmers at least some security against extremes in weather.

- (cont'd) -

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Print Media Branch

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The Weather Picture (cont'd)

What happens in the skies has an immediate and direct effect on food production, something that affects everyone. That alone should make *The Weather Picture* worth viewing.

Following is a list of stations that will show *The Weather Picture*.

CKSA-TV	Lloydminster	Wednesday	November 7	7:00 p.m.
CKRD-TV	Red Deer	Thursday	November 8	7:30 p.m.
CFAC-TV	Lethbridge	Thursday	November 8	10:30 p.m.
CHAT-TV	Medicine Hat	Friday	November 9	6:00 p.m.
CBXT-TV	Edmonton	Friday	November 9	6:30 p.m.
CBRT-TV	Calgary	Monday	November 12	6:30 p.m.

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October 22, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATCH FOR WEED-INFESTED HAY

Some weeds could be introduced into Alberta and others could be spread within the province as livestock producers move large quantities of hay during the next few months.

"In cattle country the worst weeds are knapweed, leafy spurge, toadflax and scentless chamomile," says Bob Wroe, Alberta Agriculture's range management supervisor.

At present Alberta is pretty well free of knapweed, but both British Columbia and Montana have large infestations, which could be spread as farmers bring in hay to ease the feed shortage. Once established, knapweed can reduce forage production on rangeland by more than 80 per cent. Knapweed is restricted under The Weed Control Act, and its control is much like rat control. "We stamp out knapweed anywhere we find it," says Mr. Wroe.

Shipments of hay from northern to southern Alberta could spread other weeds like leafy spurge, toadflax and scentless chamomile to areas where they are not currently established, and may even be restricted.

Whether producers bring in hay from outside Alberta or elsewhere in the province, they can take a few precautions to guard against weeds.

"The main thing is to know your source, check each shipment, and refuse any shipments of weed-infested hay," says Mr. Wroe.

Also, it's better to store imported hay and feed livestock on land that is cultivated or can be cultivated, instead of rangeland, in case the hay turns out to be infested. When feeding is over for the season, farmers can check the feeding area and have any unknown weeds identified. "Don't hesitate to ask your district agriculturist or agricultural fieldman for help if you think you need it," says Mr. Wroe.

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October 22, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARBLE INFESTATIONS DROP AGAIN

The number of cattle carcasses in Alberta infested with warbles dropped from four per cent in 1983 to 1.2 per cent in 1984.

Dr. Ali Khan, livestock pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, urges farmers not to let up in their efforts to control warbles, however, because even one or two escaping flies can infest an entire herd.

This is the third consecutive year that the number of warbles has been reduced in Alberta, according to examinations by federal inspectors at packing plants. Data from auction market inspections confirm the information.

When Alberta's warble control program began in 1968, 44 per cent of slaughter cattle were infested. Dr. Khan says the progress in warble control is due to the efforts of both producers and the fieldmen who carry out warble control programs in Alberta's 66 agricultural service board areas.

The systemic insecticides used to treat cattle are safe, says Dr. Khan — "almost like a 150-pound person taking a pill for a headache." He rates systemic treatment for warbles as being almost, but not quite, 100 per cent effective, one more reason that treatment must be done annually.

"Warble control pays even when money is short and returns are poor," says Dr. Khan. The cost of warble control is only 50 cents to 60 cents per head, while in a herd where treatment is neglected, losses can be five to six times that high.

"A return of $5 for every $1 spent in prevention is very attractive these days," he adds.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One in a series of articles recognizing October as Export Trade Month.

ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL TRADE WITH THE U.S.

The largest foreign buyer of Alberta's agricultural products excluding grains is the United States, which in 1983 bought $204 million worth of agricultural goods, or about 60 per cent of our exports.

The greatest potential market in the U.S. lies in the Pacific northwest and western U.S., says Dave Rous of Alberta Agriculture's market development division.

Sales of red meats and livestock reached $43 million and $60 million respectively in 1983. Market development rates meats and livestock as priorities, and both continue to show good progress this year, says Mr. Rous.

The value of pork shipped to the United States during the first six months of 1984 was $8 million, almost double that for the entire year of 1983. Regular shipments of Alberta pork began to the retail market in Hawaii, and Alberta pork and processed meats were sold regularly to supermarkets in Seattle, Portland and Spokane.

Alberta's beef sales to the U.S. declined during the first half of 1984, mainly because the carcass cow beef that makes up a major share of Alberta's shipments to the U.S. was no longer price competitive. Shipments of live animals increased, however. Between January and June 1984, Alberta packers shipped 39,000 slaughter cattle to the United States. During July they shipped 18,000 head, and during August, 16,000. Meat packer strikes had a major impact on these figures.

- (cont'd) -

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Alberta's Agricultural Trade With The U.S. (cont'd)

American buyers continued to visit Alberta to evaluate meat supplies. Companies from the Pacific northwest and California are considering carrying out cutting tests on Alberta beef and pork. "Once buyers see the results of such tests and judge our products on their value competitiveness and not price alone, we expect sales of Alberta red meats to pick up," says Mr. Rous.

This year market development division assisted livestock breeders to show pure-bred cattle at four major shows in the U.S.: Madison, Wisconsin; Billings, Montana; Denver and Houston. "Such shows expose Alberta cattle to U.S. buyers who frequently wind up visiting Alberta to buy," says Mr. Rous.

Alberta's success stories in the United States also include some more unusual products, like peat moss. Alberta supplies 80 per cent of the peat moss used by California mushroom growers.

"Seed potato exports to the Pacific northwest continue to be a bright spot," says Mr. Rous. In response to demand from this region, Alberta producers increased their 1984 plantings to 3,000 acres from 2,400 in 1983.

Alberta's food processors hope to maintain and increase the grocery products they ship to the U.S. market by participating in several food shows. Eight Alberta companies are attending the California Grocers' Show in Las Vegas this month. An Alberta section is being planned for the 1985 Solo Food Show in Minneapolis which showcases Canadian food products.

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October 22, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One in a series of articles recognizing October as Export Trade Month.

TRADE PROSPECTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Some of Alberta's best prospects for agricultural trade with the Third World lie with a group of five countries in Southeast Asia.

Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN. "The economies of these countries are in good shape compared with those elsewhere in the Third World, and the outlook for sales is favorable," says Bill Anderson, an international trade director with Alberta Agriculture.

In November Mr. Anderson will lead a mission to the ASEAN countries on behalf of western Canada's canola industry. The purpose of the mission is to look into setting up feeding trials using canola meal in hopes of securing a share of the market now dominated by soybean meal.

The ASEAN countries have large and sophisticated hog industries and import large quantities of soybean meal for feed. Canola meal could replace the soy, says Mr. Anderson. "The only reason these countries don't buy canola meal is that they haven't heard of it."

Feeding trials have proved to be a successful marketing vehicle for canola meal in other countries, notably Japan and Korea.

Market development efforts will also be directed at sales of hogs to the ASEAN countries. A contact initiated by Alberta Agriculture's marketing staff in January 1984 resulted in a sale of hogs through the Alberta Swine Breeders' Association. This was the first time Alberta hogs had been sold in the region in five years.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANAGING THE MANAGEABLE

An American study suggests that more problems with farm loans can be traced to poor management than any other factor.

Economists at Purdue University in Indiana recently concluded that about 38 per cent of farm loan delinquencies stemmed from poor management, a factor that is within the producer's control. In contrast, poor crops could be blamed in only 21 per cent of the cases.

While this study reflects data from only one creditor in one state, it does offer food for thought for Alberta producers, says Doug Barlund, a farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture. "By effectively managing the factors that can be controlled, producers may be able to avoid at least some loan problems," he says.

Mr. Barlund offers some tips to help producers control problems related to production management and financial management.

Production Management:

- Choose the most suitable crop varieties for your area.
- Test your soil to ensure more accurate use of fertilizer.
- Improve the timeliness of field operations.
- Determine the dollar return for inputs like fertilizer and chemicals.
- Keep accurate records of acres seeded and yields per acre.
- Have livestock pregnancy-tested.
- Analyse and weigh feeds.
- Record the birth dates, birth weights and weaning weights of calves.
- Determine the calving percentage by recording the number of calves born and weaned compared with the number of cows exposed to the bull.
- Keep litter records for each sow to determine the number of pigs born and weaned, and death losses.
- Record the days to market for feeder hogs and feed consumed, to determine feed conversion efficiency.

- (cont'd) -

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Managing The Manageable (cont'd)

Financial Management

- Know all details of outstanding debts — the principal outstanding, interest owing, date of payments, compounding periods, how interest is charged on the account, security encumbered, etc.
- Complete an income (or profit and loss) statement at each year end, accounting for changes in beginning and ending inventories of crops and livestock, feeds and farm supplies, and accounts receivable and payable.
- Do some cash flow budgeting for the coming year on a monthly or quarterly basis, to determine operating credit requirements and whether you can meet debt payments and living costs.
- Plan credit requirements considering the ability to service the debt. Plan repayment dates of loans prior to obtaining credit.
- Put plans on paper before putting them into practice. Test the impact of different prices, different yields and higher or lower costs, including interest charges.
- Keep communication lines open between you and your creditor. Use planning materials provided by financial institutions.
- Use the resources of farm management specialists, district agriculturists, bank agrologists, agribusiness consultants, other farmers, agricultural lawyers and accountants. A second or "outside" opinion can be very helpful in making management decisions.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM WIVES' CONFERENCE IN FAIRVIEW

Every farm woman faces the challenge of balancing many possible roles -- wife, parent, manager, courier, veterinarian, bookkeeper, farm hand and more.

Creating a balance is the theme of the seventh annual Peace region Farm Wives' Conference, scheduled for November 21 and 22, 1984, at Fairview College. The conference is open to all farm women and the registration fee is $20, which includes lunch both days.

"The conference gives women an opportunity to meet new people and learn some new skills," says Norma Edwards, Alberta Agriculture's district home economist in Grande Prairie. A committee consisting of farm women and district home economists planned the conference.

Della Radcliffe, the western provinces editor of the magazine *Farm Woman News*, is the keynote speaker and will open the conference the morning of Wednesday November 21.

On Wednesday afternoon and Thursday, conference participants may choose from seminars covering such wide-ranging topics as farm computers, improving farm water, home design, inexpensive holidays, the futures market and the latest gardening techniques.

Wednesday evening the conference will feature a unique fashion show; farm women will model hand-crafted fashions.

Registration is limited to 125, and the deadline for registering is November 16. Accommodation for the conference is available at Fairview College.

Registration forms and further information about the conference are available from any district home economist in the Peace River region.

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October 22, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST FOR DRUMHELLER

The Drumheller district office of Alberta Agriculture will welcome a new staff member November 1 when Ron Koots transfers from Warner as the district agriculturist.

C. S. Clark, Alberta Agriculture's regional director at Airdrie, announced the appointment.

Mr. Koots was raised on a mixed farm near Eckville. In 1976 he graduated from the University of Alberta with B.Sc. in agriculture. He later returned to the University of Alberta and graduated in December 1979 with a degree in agricultural engineering.

Mr. Koots joined Alberta Agriculture in October 1980 and trained in the Lethbridge office. Since the fall of 1981 he has been the district agriculturist at Warner.

Mr. Koots is married and has two sons.

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October 22, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL AWARD WINNERS

The Alberta Wheat Pool (AWP) scholarships for 1984 have been awarded. Tracy Hanson of Airdrie and Doug Wilson of Bentley won the awards for first-year students; Bill Dietrich of Heisler and Walter Wrubleski of New Sarepta won the awards for second-year students.

All four winners have been 4-H members for at least seven years, and have held executive positions in their clubs.

The AWP scholarships are designed to assist first- and second-year students in home economics or agriculture degree programs. Worth $300 each, these scholarships may be used at any university or college in Alberta. Tracy, Doug, Bill and Walter are all agriculture students. Tracy and Walter attend the University of Alberta, Doug attends Red Deer College and Bill attends Camrose Lutheran College.

Elizabeth Webster, Alberta Agriculture's 4-H personal development specialist, describes this year's AWP scholarship winners as "the kind of people you'd want for neighbors."

A number of 4-H scholarships are awarded annually. For more information about them, please contact your district home economist, regional 4-H specialist or Elizabeth Webster at 427-2541 in Edmonton.

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October 22, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAMROSE STUDENT WINS HOECHST BURSARY

Mark Millang of Camrose has won the Hoechst Canada Bursary of $500 for 1984. The 4-H scholarship committee awarded the bursary to Mark because of his 4-H involvement, community participation and academic achievement.

Mark was a member of the Camrose 4-H Beef Club for 10 years. Through his participation in camps, Mark won a trip to the Northwest Territories. He also participated in team judging at Farmfair, 4-H Roundup, and Denver's National Western Junior Fall Classic. In his community, Mark has been involved in the Canadian Charolais Association and the Camrose Agriculture Society.

The Hoechst Canada Bursary is awarded to a first-year student enrolled in a degree or diploma program in agriculture at a university or college in Alberta. Mark is enrolled in agricultural production at Olds College.

A number of 4-H scholarships are awarded annually. For more information about them, please contact your district home economist, the regional 4-H specialist or Elizabeth Webster, Alberta Agriculture's provincial 4-H personal development specialist, at 427-2541.

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October 22, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOREMOST STUDENT WINS SCHOLARSHIP

Dallas Harty of Foremost has won the 1984 *World of Beef and Stockman's Recorder* scholarship, an award based on 4-H achievement and leadership abilities. It is given annually to a first-year student in a diploma program in agriculture, preferably at the Olds, Fairview or Lakeland colleges.

Dallas spent seven years in the Shortgrass Beef Club, where he held all executive positions; one year in the Hoping Nimble Needles-Cooking Club; and one year in the Hoping 4-H Multi-Club as an assistant leader. He also participated in public speaking and 4-H camps.

Dallas organized and led two youth groups in his home town — the Search Youth Group and the S.T.O.P. club. He is now enrolled in agricultural mechanics at Olds College.

"I've always admired Dallas' ability to get things done," says Elizabeth Webster, Alberta Agriculture's 4-H personal development specialist. "He has a great sense of humor that helps him and people around him."

For more information about 4-H scholarships, please contact your district home economist, the regional 4-H specialist, or Elizabeth Webster at 427-2541.

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Alberta
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hone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

October 25, 1984

TO: Alberta Agriculture staff

FROM: Jocelyn Tennison
Print Media Branch, 427-2121

SUBJECT: Agri-News

As the new Agri-News editor, I'd like to remind you (or perhaps let you know for the first time) what Agri-News is all about, and encourage you to contribute material to it.

What is Agri-News?

It's a package of news releases issued weekly by Alberta Agriculture's print media branch as one means of getting information from our department out to the public.

Who receives Agri-News?

Agri-News goes to a mailing list of about 3,000. The main group we want to reach is the media, especially the print media. Agri-News goes to over 200 members of the media, including weekly newspapers, monthly agricultural publications and radio stations.

Agri-News also goes to members of the agricultural industry who request it, some other government departments and Alberta Agriculture staff.

How do the media use Agri-News?

Some editors, mostly those of weekly papers, print Agri-News articles exactly as we write them. Publications which have their own staff writers tend to use Agri-News more for background, re-writing stories to suit the interests of their readers.

Radio farm commentators sometimes contact staff of our department for interviews based on the content of Agri-News.

Extension staff adapt Agri-News articles for use in their newspaper columns, newsletters and on radio.

To give you an idea of how widely Agri-News is used, print media branch recently found that between October 1983 and September 1984 The Country Guide used 68 Agri-News articles partly or entirely. Farm Light and Power, which goes to 86,000 Albertans, used 95 articles from Agri-News during the past year.

continued

2/ Agri-News

What topics are suitable for Agri-News?

In general, any information that Alberta Agriculture staff consider timely and relevant to farmers or farm families is suitable. Agri-News stories often fall into these categories:

-new programs or services, or changes to existing ones
-predictions or outlook information
-production information
-research results
-trends
-seasonal topics
-new publications, courses, films
-workshops and conferences
-staff appointments (To streamline these, print media branch has a form on which you can provide the required information. Please phone 427-2121 for a copy.)

Agri-News generally does not carry material that originates outside the department.

What's the deadline for Agri-News?

I need all material by Tuesday noon. Agri-News is printed every Wednesday, and gets to the papers early the following week. If you have an article that must appear at a certain time, the earlier you let me know, the better.

A few other points...

- Since I know staff do not want to be surprised by what they read in Agri-News (or worse yet, the papers), I check every article back with the originator or the source before it is printed.

- We can use photographs to illustrate articles in Agri-News, but need several days extra.

- Starting immediately, the name and telephone number of the person mentioned in each article will be listed following the article for the convenience of members of the public or media who want more information.

- Four times a year Agri-News carries a list of coming agricultural events, and we invite staff to submit items for this list. The next list will be included with the first issue of Agri-News for 1985, and the deadline for adding items to the list is December 10.

- Agri-News is written in Canadian Press (CP) style to maximize the chances of pick-up by newspapers. Print media branch has a publication entitled Style Sheet for News Releases, Features and Agri-News, which summarizes the main points of CP style. If you do a lot of writing, you may find the booklet helpful; copies are available from the Publications Office in the J.G. O'Donoghue Building.

AGRI-NEWS

October 29, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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October 29, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA CATTLE WIN AT WORLD DAIRY EXPO

Alberta cattle made their best-ever showing at this year's World Dairy Expo, held October 3 to 7 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Not only is Dairy Expo the largest show of its type in the United States, it's also widely regarded as the most prestigious, and draws the best dairy animals in North America, says Doug Bienert of Alberta Agriculture's market development division.

Alberta's best placing was a reserve championship won by a five-year old Holstein cow shown by Norm and Marg Atkins of Leduc. Another Leduc couple, Ray and Joyce Wedman, showed a yearling Holstein heifer that came second in a class of 41. A Holstein heifer calf owned by Doug Blair and Don McIntosh of Calgary took first in a class that included 46 other animals.

For the first time Alberta breeders showed Ayrshires as well as Holsteins at World Dairy Expo. Svend Larson, an Ayrshire breeder from Innisfail, placed well with several of his animals, highlighted with a fourth place in the "breeder's herd" category.

"This year proved that Alberta dairy cattle can compete with the world's best," says Mr. Bienert. For several years now market development has assisted breed associations to exhibit at World Dairy Expo.

Alberta's recent placings are certain to attract cattle buyers, says Mr. Bienert, noting that World Dairy Expo was attended by nearly 86,000 people including 1,600 foreign visitors. "Although Alberta may not have quantity in dairy cattle, we certainly do have quality," he says.

- (cont'd) -

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Alberta Cattle Win At World Dairy Expo (cont'd)

A win at World Dairy Expo is no small matter, given that some exhibitors are investor syndicates which can afford to buy the best cattle available. As well, the show is in the heart of American dairy country. The state of Wisconsin alone has more dairy cattle than all of Canada.

Alberta's success at World Dairy Expo has created a stir among Alberta breeders, says Mr. Bienert. "It has really set the stage for the show and sale at Farm Fair in Edmonton November 2 and 3." The show and sale he refers to will celebrate the the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Holstein Association.

To sum it all up, Mr. Bienert recalls that a few years ago when an Alberta breeder won at World Dairy Expo, his address was announced as "Leduc (pronounced 'Leduck'), Ontario." After this year, however, Mr. Bienert thinks that kind of slip would be less likely. In the world of dairy cattle, Alberta is clearly on the map.

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For further information please contact:

Doug Bienert - 427-4241

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRRIGATION REHABILITATION PROGRAM EXTENDED FOR FIVE YEARS

On October 18, 1984, LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's minister of agriculture, announced a five-year, $150 million extension of the irrigation rehabilitation and expansion program.

The program will provide $30 million annually to assist Alberta's 13 irrigation districts in planning, rehabilitating and expanding irrigation systems. During the next five years the program's costs will be shared as they are now, with the government paying 86 per cent and the irrigation districts paying 14 per cent.

Work carried out under the program includes seepage control, canal and lateral relocation and rehabilitation, pipeline installation, reservoir projects and system enlargements.

Mr. Fjordbotten said the rehabilitation program was renewed following an extensive reassessment of the economic impact of irrigation. One study showed that irrigation employs 35,000 people directly or indirectly, and accounts for $940 million of the province's gross domestic product. The same study, which was conducted by the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association, showed that extending the rehabilitation program would create another 4,700 jobs and $336 million worth of economic activity.

The rehabilitation program is funded by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, and it was implemented in 1976 along with the irrigation headworks program, administered by Alberta Environment. Between 1976 and 1984, $152 million was invested in irrigation development, and Alberta's irrigable acreage rose by 20 per cent to 1.1 million acres. The long-term goal of these irrigation programs is to increase Alberta's irrigable acreage to 1.5 million acres by 1995.

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For further information, please contact:

Dr. A.O. Olson, Assistant Deputy Minister
427-1957

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEMORIAL FUND FOR DR. TERRY SWANSON

A memorial fund has been set up in the name of Terry Swanson, Alberta Agriculture's plant pathologist at Fairview, who died in the tragic Wapiti air crash October 19, 1984 near High Prairie.

The nature of the fund is yet to be determined, but will likely take the form of a minor scholarship for students of plant pathology.

The fund will be set up under the auspices of the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta. Any inquiries should be directed to Ron Howard at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center (AHRC) at Brooks, phone 362-3391; or Ieuan Evans, supervisor of plant pathology in Edmonton, phone 427-5350.

"Terry's many friends and colleagues will remember him for his amiable personality and sincere interest in his work and the well-being of agriculture in Alberta," says Dr. Evans.

At the time of his death Dr. Swanson was travelling home from a meeting of the Western Committee on Plant Disease Control in Regina.

Dr. Swanson was raised on a farm at Abbotsford, British Columbia. He obtained his B.Sc. from the University of British Columbia, and in the summer of 1984 completed a PhD at the University of California. Before joining Alberta Agriculture, Dr. Swanson worked for two years on a Farming for the Future project at the AHRC.

Dr. Swanson is survived by his wife and two daughters.

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For further information please contact:

Ron Howard 362-3391 or Ieuan Evans 427-5350

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM FIRES DOUBLE IN SIX YEARS

The number of farm fires in Alberta and the resulting damage have increased steadily each year since 1977, says Solomon Kyeremanteng of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program.

Figures just released by Alberta Labour show that in 1983 there were 554 farm fires, nearly twice as many as in 1977. The estimated damage from fires in 1983 was $7.4 million, compared with $2.3 million in 1977.

Alberta Agriculture's farm safety staff are responding to this news by including fire prevention in the workshops they will conduct over the coming winter.

Between 1977 and 1983 farm fires caused over $30 million worth of damage in Alberta, and were responsible for nine deaths and 52 injuries.

Inadequate control of open fires led to one-third of the farm fires. Many of these fires were caused by things like lighters, welding equipment, hot ashes or cutting torches. Electrical short circuit was the second most frequent cause. About one-third of the deaths and injuries resulted from fires which took place in farm homes.

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For further information, please contact:

Solomon Kyeremanteng
427-2186

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TAKING STOCK NOVEMBER 6 AND 7

This may well be remembered as the year Canada imported record volumes of beef and exported a record number of hogs.

Why we are in this peculiar situation and how it will affect the future of Canadian livestock producers are among the topics to be discussed November 6 and 7, 1984, at Alberta Agriculture's outlook conference, Taking Stock.

Charles Gracey of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association will address the questions of beef demand and international trade, which are having an impact on the Canadian cattle industry.

Dr. Larry Martin of the University of Guelph will discuss the Canadian-American live hog trade, a matter which may be of particular interest to Alberta producers as Canada continues to move large volumes of hogs south.

Dr. Brian Scarfe, chairman of the department of economics at the University of Alberta, will open the conference by outlining the general economic outlook as it affects livestock producers.

The feedgrain price outlook, and the outlook for cattle and hogs in the U.S. are also on the program.

Taking Stock will run for one and one-half days, starting the afternoon of November 6 with seminars on the futures and options markets, marketing alternatives and cycle analysis. There is no admission charge for the seminars, but seating is available on a first-come basis.

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Taking Stock November 6 And 7 (cont'd)

All outlook presentations will be given Wednesday November 7. The registration fee, which includes the conference, lunch and a copy of the proceedings, is $40 per person. Copies of the proceedings alone are $15.

Brochures and registration forms for Taking Stock are available from Alberta Agriculture's district offices or the market analysis branch, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6; telephone 427-5387.

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For more information please contact:

Marilyn Johnson - 427-4002

October 29, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BETTER BUY ALBERTA PROMOTION IN CENTRAL ALBERTA

The promotion of Alberta food products took a new direction this year as district home economists (DHEs) in Wetaskiwin, Ponoka and Rimbey carried out a program to increase local awareness and sales of Alberta products.

This is the first time such an extensive promotion has been directed specifically at rural retailers and their customers using the theme Better Buy Alberta, says Susan Kitchen of Alberta Agriculture's market development division.

The DHEs used food product displays, brochures, newspaper advertising and recipe contests to acquaint people with Alberta food brands. They planned dozens of food demonstrations in nine retail stores during the last week of October. The demonstrations were organized in co-operation with the Alberta Food Processors' Association (AFPA).

Trina Rentmeister, the DHE at Rimbey, says she found the response to the promotion very positive, with as many as 200 people stopping to watch food demonstrations in one afternoon. Randi Sandbu, the DHE at Wetaskiwin, found that many people were not aware that some of the products they use regularly are processed in Alberta.

The effectiveness of the promotion will be judged later in November by the retailers themselves and through a questionnaire sent to some local residents.

A study conducted in 1983 for AFPA concluded that if Alberta food products were properly identified, Albertans would be more likely to buy Alberta products.

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For further information please contact:

Susan Kitchen
Market Development Division
Calgary
297-8452

or

Joyce Lencucha
Regional Home Economist
Red Deer
340-5359

Alberta
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Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

October 29, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORKSHOP FOR AGRICULTURE TEACHERS

On November 2 and 3, 1984, Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Education will hold a workshop for teachers who instruct agriculture courses in Alberta schools.

The workshop will take place in the J.G. O'Donoghue Building in Edmonton.

The purpose of the workshop is to give teachers an opportunity to exchange ideas on the agriculture curriculum, and share information on resources available to them in their communities and from Alberta Agriculture.

The workshop will also focus on the need for agriculture to be included in the general school curriculum to give all students an appreciation of agriculture.

There is no fee for this workshop, and it's not necessary to register in advance. Any teachers interested in attending should contact their superintendents for more information.

During the 1983-84 school year, 18 Alberta high schools offered agriculture courses, and 100 students were enrolled in Agriculture 10 by correspondence. As well, 10 4-H projects were approved by school principals as special credit projects.

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For further information please contact:

Bohdan Chomiak
Alberta Agriculture
427-2404

or

Gary Popowich
Alberta Education
427-2982

October 29, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUSTOM GRAIN HARVESTING RATES FOR 1984

Custom grain harvesting rates for 1984 showed both increases and decreases depending upon the region, according to the annual survey conducted by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch and the farm business management branch. The survey was conducted in September and October of this year.

The actual rates were obtained from custom operators in the six regions. Region 1 consists of the area from the American border to High River; region 2, from High River to Olds; region 3, from Olds to Camrose; region 4, from Camrose to Fort McMurray and east; region 5, from Camrose to Athabasca and west; and region 6, the Peace River region.

Combining ($ per acre and $ per hour)

Region	Most Common 1984 Charges	Most Common 1983 Charges	Range for 1984
1	$15/acre –	$12-$20/acre $75-$85/hour*	$15/acre –
2	$12-$18/acre –	$12-$18/acre $75-$125/hour	$12-18/acre $100/hour*
3	– $95-$110/hour	$10-$18/acre $100-$110/hour	$14/acre* $75-$110/hour
4	$15/acre –	$12/acre $85-$110/hour	$12-$15/acre –
5	– $65-$125/hour	– $75-$100/hour	$12/acre* $65-$125/hour
6	– $85-$100/hour	$12/acre* $100/hour*	$12/acre* $85-$100/hour

*Two reports or fewer

- (cont'd) -

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Custom Grain Harvesting Rates For 1984 (cont'd)

Combining and Trucking ($ per acre and $ per hour)

Region	Most Common 1984 Charges	Most Common 1983 Charges	Range for 1984
1	$16-$18/acre	$19-$20/acre	$16-$25/acre
2	$17-$20/acre $140-$190/hour	$12-$18/acre* $120/hour	$17-$20/acre $140-$190/hour
3	— —	$10-$18/acre* $110/hour	— —
4	$14-$17/acre —	— $85-$100/hour	$14-$17/acre $85/hour
5	— $85-$90/hour	— $85-$110/hour	$15/acre* $75-$105/hour
6	$13-$15/acre	—	$13-$15/acre $92/hour*

* Two reports or fewer

Alberta Agriculture's farm management specialist in the area of custom rates, Gerd Andres, says this year, as last year, half the operators surveyed charge on an hourly rate and the other half charged on a per-acre basis. Most of the custom operators in regions 3 and 5 charged on an hourly basis while most in regions 1 and 4 charged on a per-acre basis. Those in regions 2 and 6 charged either by the hour or by the acre.

Among the custom rates quoted on an hourly basis, Mr. Andres says the higher hourly rate reflected greater combine capacity than the lower rates.

The survey also shows that swathing costs ranged from $3 to $9 per acre in 1984, with the most common charge in all regions being $5 to $6 per acre. An additional custom rate surveyed this year was hauling grain long distances.

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Custom Grain Harvesting Rates For 1984 (cont'd)

The following table summarizes long distance hauling rates for each region.

Grain hauling (22-37 ton trucks) $ per tonne

Region	Miles			
	0-24	25-50	51-100	Over 100
1				
Range	$4.60-$5.60	$5.50-$7.95	$9.20-$10.30	—
Most common	$5.50	$5.50-$6.90	—	—
2				
Range	$4.60-$5.72	$4.60-$7.60	$6.50-$11.76	$16.75
Most common	$4.78-$5.50	$5.72-$6.70	$7.02-$11.50	(175 miles)
3				
Range	$4.60-$5.05	$5.97-$7.35	$7.06-$11.50	$11.50-$16.10
Most common	$4.88	—	$9.20-$11.00	(135-200 miles)
4				
Range	$3.00-$5.97	$5.97-$7.00	$8.41-$10.75	$11.36-$18.00
Most common	$4.96-$5.97	—	—	(150-250 miles)
5				
Range	$4.50-$5.72	$5.72-$7.61	$7.90-$10.67	—
Most common	—	—	—	—
6				
Range	$5.00-$5.10	$7.00-$9.00	$8.00-$8.60	$26.50-$27.50
Most common	$5.00	—	—	(300 miles)

Mr. Andres says that the biggest reason for the variation in long-distance hauling rates within each category is the miles travelled.

Additional information on custom rates for all operations can be obtained from district agriculturists, Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch in Edmonton at 427-4018, or the department's farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4247.

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For further information please contact:

Gerd Andres, Farm Planning Section, Olds
556-4247 or RITE 154-1247

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October 29, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW HOME STUDY COURSE ON DAIRY PRODUCTION

Alberta Agriculture's newest home study course deals with dairy production, from marketing and planning to milking management and herd health.

Written by specialists with Alberta Agriculture, the course can be used as a home study program, a dairy manual, or as resource information on specific topics. The cost for the entire course is $30, or individual lessons can be purchased for $5 each.

The dairy production course consists of 10 chapters, each dealing with one of the following topics: marketing, milk recording and management systems, cattle breeding, feeding and management, dairy housing and equipment, the function and maintenance of milking equipment, milking management, quality milk production, herd health, and financial planning and management.

The course comes in a looseleaf binder, and over the next three years Alberta Agriculture will supply registrants with free fact sheets to update the information.

Dairy production is the twelfth home study course to be released by Alberta Agriculture. Early response has been favorable, with 100 people registered by the third week in October, says Bohdan Chomiak of Alberta Agriculture.

Brochures containing registration forms for the course are available from the dairy division in Wetaskiwin, the home study section in Edmonton or from district offices. District agriculturists can also provide information about dairy Production Plus clubs, which have been set up in 10 communities so far, and in which course registrants may be interested.

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For more information please contact:

Bohdan Chomiak - 427-2404

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE JOY OF RUTABAGAS

Although Alberta's rutabaga acreage is down this year, the quality definitely is not. Alberta farmers are just now harvesting, cleaning and putting away about 2.5 million pounds of rutabagas for consumers to enjoy during the winter, says Phil Dixon, vegetable crop extension specialist with the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton.

If anything is holding back the rutabaga market, it's that many people aren't familiar with this vegetable and don't know how to use it, says Catherine Sinnott, food specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

The rutabaga, or swede, crop for winter storage is planted in late June and early July, and harvested starting in October, explains Mr. Dixon. Large machine harvesters pull the rutabagas out of the ground by their tops, twist off the tops and place the roots in trucks that drive alongside the harvester.

With proper storage conditions, which consist of a temperature of one degree Celsius and relative humidity of 90 to 95 per cent, rutabagas can be stored for six to seven months and still maintain high quality.

In the store, consumers often see rutabagas coated with wax. Growers apply the wax when they take the rutabagas out of storage to help improve the vegetable's shelf-life when it reaches the retailer.

"Once you get them home, rutabagas will keep in the vegetable crisper of the refrigerator for several weeks," says Ms. Sinnott.

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The Joy Of Rutabagas (cont'd)

The sweet mild flavor of rutabagas lends itself to combinations with other vegetables and fruit. Ms. Sinnott suggests serving rutabagas on a vegetable tray with a dip, as an addition to stiry-fry dishes, or cooked and mashed in a combination with potatoes, carrots or apples. You can also add rutabagas to soup or stew, or enjoy them boiled, steamed or cooked in a pressure cooker.

Rutabagas provide a valuable source of vitamin C during the winter. A 125 mL serving of cooked rutabaga provides about half an adult's daily requirement of this vitamin.

As for that nagging question about what is a turnip and what is a rutabaga, it doesn't matter, says Ms. Sinnott. "Since turnips and rutabagas are so similar, you can use them interchangeably."

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For further information, please contact:

Catherine Sinnott - 427-2412
Phil Dixon - 973-3351

October 29, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIX-YEAR 4-H MEMBER WINS AWARD

Susan Kraft of Etzikom has won the Lethbridge and District 4-H Beef Committee Scholarship for 1984. This scholarship, worth $250, is awarded to a first-year student enrolled in a degree or diploma program in agriculture or a related field.

Susan was a member of the Hoping Nimble Needles Multi-Club for six years. During that time she served in all six executive positions. Susan was a successful public speaker, competing at the regional level in 1982, and also teaching public speaking to the younger members in her club. Susan is attending Medicine Hat College, where she is enrolled in recreation management.

Candidates for this scholarship are rated on the basis of 4-H achievement, academic record, character references and financial need.

Every year a number of 4-H scholarships are awarded in Alberta. If you'd like information about these awards, please call Elizabeth Webster, Alberta Agriculture's 4-H personal development specialist, at 427-2541.

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October 29, 1984

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TX BAR SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Dawn Halstead of Carbon and Heather Park of Trochu are the winners of two of the three Tx Bar Scholarships. The Tx Bar scholarships are sponsored annually by John P. Ignatius, a 4-H supporter who lives near Elkwater.

Dawn was involved in 4-H for 12 years and won many awards for public speaking, judging, showmanship and efficiency. In 1981 Dawn and her two sisters formed a cattle company to breed registered Angus cows. Dawn is now attending Olds College, enrolled in agricultural production.

In her eight years of 4-H involvement, Heather was a member of three 4-H clubs. She held executive positions in each club and on the district council. Heather is enrolled in first-year pre-veterinary medicine at the University of Calgary.

Candidates for the Tx Bar scholarships must have spent at least two years in 4-H and show outstanding achievement in 4-H. Each scholarship has different qualifications and is worth a different amount.

For information about the 4-H scholarships that are awarded annually, please contact Elizabeth Webster, Alberta Agriculture's 4-H personal development specialist, at 427-2541.

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October 29, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORMA JEAN GRAY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The 1984 Norma Jean Gray Scholarship has been awarded to Brett Bonde of Rocky Mountain House. This award is given in recognition of 4-H club leadership, community responsibility and communication skills.

The scholarship, worth $500, may be used at any post-secondary institution in Alberta. It is awarded to a first-year student in a diploma or certificate program.

During his eight-year involvement in three 4-H clubs, Brett held offices at the club, district and regional levels. He attended leadership training camps and used his skills to counsel at camps for other 4-H'ers. Brett's interests include sports: he has coached and refereed minor hockey; and languages: he is bilingual. Brett is enrolled in electronics engineering technology at SAIT.

A number of 4-H scholarships are awarded annually. For information about them, please contact Elizabeth Webster, Alberta Agriculture's 4-H personal development specialist, at 427-2541.

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AGRI-NEWS

November 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL FIRMS WIN EXPORT AWARDS

Agriculture was well represented when the Alberta government handed out its annual export awards October 25 in Edmonton.

United Oilseeds of Lloydminster was chosen as Alberta's International Marketing Firm of the Year for most improved performance in export trade, and six other agricultural companies were among the 17 award winners.

The winners were chosen from more than 60 applicants.

The number of agricultural winners was double the number in 1983, and reflects growing sophistication on the part of many agricultural exporters from Alberta, says Andrew Raphael of Alberta Agriculture's market development division.

The judges singled out United Oilseeds for its success in promoting trade missions and feeding trials, and pursuit of new markets for canola meal. The company's export sales doubled between 1982-83 and 1983-84.

The other winners from agriculture included Mo-Na Enterprises, which markets wild mushrooms; Tirol Dehydrators, which introduced alfalfa cubes to Japan; and Western Breeders, which has increased its dealer and distributor network worldwide.

The Central Alberta Dairy Pool won an award for developing new markets for cheddar cheese in Japan over the past year. Fletcher's Limited was recognized for its aggressive marketing campaign for pork and processed meats in the northwest United States, and the Alberta Wheat Pool won an award for arranging a sale of red clover to China in exchange for a shipment of beer to eastern Canada.

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For more information please contact:

Andrew Raphael
427-4241

Alberta
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Phone: (403) 427-2121

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRINDING AND FEEDING LOW QUALITY FORAGES

Beef producers looking for ways to increase their livestock's intake of low quality forages this winter may consider grinding the forage and then blending it with grain or ground high quality hay.

Dave Plett, ruminant nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture, offers some guidelines for producers who use ground forage in their winter feeding program.

Mr. Plett explains that when cattle eat low quality roughage, their intake is limited by the capacity of the rumen. Grinding increases the rate at which the feed passes through the rumen, and thus allows for a larger intake. As the animal's intake increases, the rate and efficiency of liveweight gain usually improve as well, even though the digestibility of the forage is slightly reduced.

With higher quality roughage, however, grinding does not usually result in increased efficiency. That is because in the rumen microbes are able to break down high quality forage much more rapidly than low quality forage, and grinding high quality material usually results in only minimal increase in forage intake.

When grinding or chopping forage, it is critical not to cut the particle size too small, cautions Mr. Plett. Excessive processing not only wastes tractor power, he points out, but very fine grinding of low quality forage may produce feed that passes through the animal's digestive tract too quickly for nutrients to be broken down and absorbed.

If the amount of protein, minerals and vitamins are inadequate, feeding large amounts of low quality ground forage increases the risk of abomasal impaction. This problem often occurs shortly after the onset of very cold weather. During the first stages of cold weather, cattle that are being fed large amounts of ground low quality forage should also be fed some good quality long hay. After a week or so the long hay can be removed from the ration.

- (cont'd) -

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Grinding And Feeding Low Quality Forages (cont'd)

The dust created by fine grinding can also cause bloat or respiratory problems. This is particularly likely this year as some producers will replace forage with straw, much of which is very dry and brittle.

As a general recommendation, Mr. Plett advises grinding poor to medium quality roughage through a hammermill screen no smaller than one-half inch, and good to excellent forage through a one-inch screen. Coarse grinding of forages may result in problems in keeping the forage and grain mixed during augering or in self-feeders. This could lead to digestive disturbances in the livestock.

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For further information please contact:

Dave Plett
436-9150

November 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER BASIN

The Alberta Water Resources Commission is holding public hearings to help set priorities for the allocation and use of the water in the South Saskatchewan River Basin. This includes three rivers — the Old Man, Bow and Red Deer — and the South Saskatchewan itself.

At issue is how to best allocate the limited water supplies in this region among several possible uses including industry, urban needs, irrigation, fisheries and recreation. The future development of southern Alberta depends to a large degree on how water is allocated and used, says Brian Colgan, director of Alberta Agriculture's resource planning division.

Mr. Colgan adds that making input to these hearings is perhaps most important to farmers who believe that having access to irrigation water supplies in future would benefit their district.

The locations and dates of the hearings are as follows:

Calgary	November 6 and 7, 1984
High River	November 8
Lethbridge	November 13 and 14
Taber	November 15
Vulcan	November 22
Brooks	November 27
Medicine Hat	November 29 and 30
Strathmore	December 4
Hanna	December 6 and 7
Red Deer	December 11 and 12

Further information about the hearings is available from Jim Marks of Alberta Environment at 297-8282.

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For further information please contact:

Jim Marks
Alberta Environment
297-8282

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November 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRAIN AND TRAVEL WITH IAEA

Jennifer Strath's Australian host family called her a "rous-about." On a Canadian farm we might refer to her as a "go-fer." She helped in the shearing shed, drove the children to school, cared for the angora rabbits the family raised as a sideline, and worked in the garden.

Ms. Strath says she learned more during her six months as an agricultural trainee in Australia with the International Agricultural Exchange Association (IAEA) than she would have in a year at university.

In addition to learning about agriculture, IAEA trainees experience life in a different country. For Ms. Strath, the memorable aspects of life in Australia included living in an area so dry that dishwater and shower water were saved to water plants, and seeing wheat planted in May and harvested just before Christmas.

Altogether, joining IAEA is something Ms. Strath recommends highly to other young people with a farm background, a desire for travel and an open mind.

The exchange is run on a non-profit basis to give people aged 19 to 28 the opportunity to work on a farm in a different country. For 1985, trainees may travel to Australia, New Zealand and seven European countries.

To participate, each trainee pays a fee that covers travel, insurance, work permits, placement on an approved farm and orientation. Fees start at about $1,800 for a four-month stay in Europe, and the length of stay varies from four months to 13 months.

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Train And Travel With IAEA (cont'd)

University students may be interested in a four-month exchange to Europe that begins in May and ends in time for participants to be back for the fall session of university. "This is ideal for students who want to participate in IAEA without having to take a year off," says Ms. Strath.

The trainees live and work as members of the host family, receiving a training allowance along with room and board. They have three weeks' holiday and regular time off to allow them to see the country. Trainees can choose the type of farm they'd like to work on. In Australia this can be as varied as fruit, cotton or rice farming. Trainees in Europe may see intensive cropping and advanced livestock operations, some of which turn out to be forerunners of North American technology.

IAEA is now taking applications for its 1985 exchanges. If you're interested, please contact the International Agricultural Exchange Association at 1211 - 11 Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T3C 0M5, or telephone 244-1814.

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For further information please contact:

Allison Delday, IAEA
244-1814

November 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 5 - 11 IS 4-H WEEK

November 5 - 11 has been declared National 4-H Week.

In Alberta 4-H is significant in the lives of 8,600 4-H members who belong to about 550 clubs. Nearly 2,500 adults volunteer their time as 4-H leaders.

The aim of 4-H is to help rural people develop as responsible members of society while taking part in a range of projects from handicrafts and agriculture to conservation and outdoor activities.

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For further information please contact:

Sandy Behnke
427-2541

November 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHELTERBELT STOCK DOES WELL IN 1984

Shelterbelts planted this year using trees and shrubs supplied by Alberta Agriculture should have survived well despite the hot, dry weather.

A sample of nursery stock tested at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre at Oliver had an overall survival rate of 81 per cent, which is exceptional, says George Grainger, director of the centre. Normally only 50 per cent to 55 per cent of the stock might be expected to survive.

Mr. Grainger says this year's high survival rate was likely due to warm spring weather.

Every year the tree nursery tests a sample of the shelterbelt material supplied to farmers. "We treat the sample as a recipient would," explains Mr. Grainger. "We plant it, water it in and water it again a month later."

The survival rates of nursery stock tested at the centre this year were as follows: poplars and willows, 92 per cent; tall deciduous trees like green ash and maple, 70 per cent; small deciduous trees like chokecherry and mayday, 68 per cent; hedge plants like dogwood and honeysuckle, 75 per cent; and conifers, 92 per cent.

Two species, altaica rose and silver buffaloberry, did not survive storage and planting.

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For further information please contact:

George Grainger
973-3351

November 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW PUBLICATION ON LAND CLEARING AND BREAKING COSTS

Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch has just updated the publication *Land Clearing and Breaking Equipment Costs* to reflect current prices.

The publication is intended to assist farmers and custom operators to budget for the machinery used to clear and break land, or to negotiate a charge for custom work.

The publication begins with an overview of the methods which can be used in land clearing. It also includes a means of calculating the ownership and operating costs for crawler tractors; the estimated costs of crawler tractors, wheel tractors, attachments and implements used to clear and break land. The publication summarizes the costs of land clearing and breaking on a per-hour and per-acre basis, and custom rates charged for these operations.

Copies of *Land Clearing and Breaking Equipment Costs* (Agdex 825-8) are available from Alberta Agriculture's district offices, the farm business management branch at Olds, or the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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For further information please contact:

Gerd Andres, Olds
556-4247

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November 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST-IN-TRAINING IN PINCHER CREEK

Eric Horton, Alberta Agriculture's regional director at Lethbridge, has announced the appointment of Bruce Friedel as district agriculturist-in-training at Pincher Creek.

Mr. Friedel started his training under the direction of district agriculturist Bob Lyons on October 1.

Mr. Friedel was raised on a mixed farm near Fairview. In April 1984 he graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in agriculture, majoring in range pasture and wildlife management.

This year Mr. Friedel worked as a summer district agriculturist in Bonnyville.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Eric Horton, Lethbridge
329-5130

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November 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DHE TRANSFERS TO PONOKA

Diane MacKay is Alberta Agriculture's new district home economist (DHE) at Ponoka. She has transferred from the Hanna office, where she was the DHE for the past four years.

Ms. MacKay's appointment is announced by the head of the home economics branch, Shirley Myers.

As district home economist, Ms. MacKay will provide rural women with home economics information, with emphasis on home and farm records, financial planning, nutrition, food preservation and 4-H leader development.

Ms. MacKay grew up on a mixed irrigation farm just north of Picture Butte. In 1978 she graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in home economics, majoring in clothing and textiles. Ms. MacKay first worked with Alberta Agriculture in the Red Deer office and later at Smoky Lake.

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For further information please contact:

Diane MacKay
783-4476

November 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DHE TRANSFERS TO SEDGEWICK

The new district home economist (DHE) in Alberta Agriculture's Sedgewick office is Ellen Frombach. Her appointment is announced by Shirley Myers, head of the home economics branch.

Ms. Frombach transferred from the St. Paul office where she has been the DHE since 1980. She will provide home economics information to farm families, with emphasis on 4-H, the nutrition at school program, and women in farm management. Although Ms. Frombach will assist clients any day, she is setting aside Mondays as office day, so that people can phone or drop in and be sure of reaching her.

Ms. Frombach was raised on a mixed farm outside of Edenwold, Saskatchewan. In 1979 she graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a B.Sc. in home economics, and received a scholarship to study home economics education in England.

In the fall of 1979 Ms. Frombach joined Alberta Agriculture as a DHE-in-training at Lamont.

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For more information please contact:

Ellen Frombach
384-3737

November 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRY SCIENCE STUDENT HONORED

Mark Cameron of Crossfield is the winner of the Alberta Dairymen's Association and Alberta Agriculture Scholarship for 1984. The scholarship, worth $3,000, is given to a student who is doing postgraduate work or who has finished at least two years of a degree in dairy husbandry.

The scholarship selection committee considers candidates' 4-H experience, scholastic records and whether they have a farm background.

Mark is working on his master of science degree in dairy science at California Polytechnic State University, where he has been noted on both the dean's list and the president's list. Mark was also recognized as one of the top 15 students in the United States and awarded a bronze medal by the American Dairy Science Association. Prior to attending school in California, Mark was involved for 10 years in a 4-H dairy club. He continues his 4-H involvement now as a judge. You may have seen Mark judging showmanship at the provincial 4-H Dairy Show last summer.

For information about the 4-H scholarships awarded annually, please contact Elizabeth Webster, Alberta Agriculture's 4-H personal development specialist, at 427-2541.

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November 5, 1984

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MEDICINE HAT 4-H MEMBER WINS SCHOLARSHIP

The 4-H scholarship selection committee has awarded the Inga Marr Memorial to Jeff MacFarlane of Medicine Hat. Jeff won the scholarship on the basis of his 4-H and community involvement, and academic performance.

Jeff was a member of the Seven Persons 4-H Beef Club for one year and the Medicine Hat Beef Club for eight years. Jeff is an accomplished public speaker, having competed in 4-H public speaking to the regional level, and in Rotary festivals.

Jeff's travels have included an Alberta/Quebec student exchange, a trip to the national Liberal convention as a youth delegate, and a trip to the national 4-H conference in Washington.

At home, Jeff ran his own business, providing taped music for dances. As well, he maintained above-average marks throughout high school. Jeff is attending the University of Ottawa, in the faculty of engineering.

For information about the 4-H scholarships that are awarded annually in Alberta, please contact Elizabeth Webster, Alberta Agriculture's 4-H personal development specialist. Her phone number is 427-2541.

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November 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTHWEST 4-H'ERS WIN AWARDS

Eldon Borle of Gunn and Jay Wildman of Sangudo have won the Pennington Memorial Scholarships for 1984. These scholarships are designated for 4-H members from the Barrhead and Mayerthorpe districts.

Eldon was a member of the Rich Valley 4-H Beef Club for four years. He was an honors student at Onoway senior high. This year, Eldon is attending NAIT, enrolled in telecommunication engineering technology.

Jay was involved in the Sangudo 4-H Beef Club for seven years and held all executive positions in the club. His ability as a showman took him to provincial competition. Jay is enrolled in livestock production at Olds College.

Two Pennington Memorial Scholarships are awarded each year to first-year students in degree or diploma programs in agriculture or a related field. The winners are chosen on the basis of their 4-H achievement, academic standing, character references and financial need.

A number of scholarships are awarded to 4-H members every year. If you would like information about these scholarships, please contact Elizabeth Webster, Alberta Agriculture's 4-H personal development specialist, at 427-2541.

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November 5, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AT THREE HILLS

Tuesday November 13 is the deadline for pre-registration for a rural women's conference to be held November 29 in Three Hills.

The theme of the conference is "Planning Today for Tomorrow," and registration is $10 per person. All rural women in the Three Hills area are invited to attend.

Please call Karen Hoover, Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Three Hills at 443-5503 for more information or to register.

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For further information please contact:

Karen Hoover
443-5503

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AL-1-691

AGRI-NEWS

November 12, 1984

For immediate release

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November 12, 1984

For immediate release

Canadian cattle outlook

Prices for fed cattle can be expected to increase by $2 to $3 per hundredweight in 1985 because of reduced supplies, says Charles Gracey, executive director of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.

Speaking November 7 at Taking Stock, Alberta Agriculture's annual livestock market outlook conference in Edmonton, Mr. Gracey forecast Canadian beef marketings in 1985 at 3,084,000 head, down from about 3,264,000 head in 1984. Heifer kill will continue to be higher than average.

Mr. Gracey cautioned that cattle prices will be held down by factors such as the weak Canadian economy, increasing supplies of pork and poultry, and subsidized beef imports from EEC countries.

Beef consumption will be reduced over the next few years, not so much because of falling demand, but because the Canadian beef herd has been "oversold" and supplies will drop, said Mr. Gracey. Canada has lost more than 50,000 cow herds since 1976. By 1986 beef supplies could fall to 75 pounds per capita from the present level of 82 pounds per capita.

Beef prices cannot continue to be so much higher than pork and poultry prices, Mr. Gracey said. Cost-conscious consumers will change their buying habits if they feel beef is too expensive, he said, and other meats can be substituted for beef in restaurants and institutions. Beef prices will also be restricted by the import ceiling price dictated by the U.S. market.

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Canadian cattle outlook (cont'd)

Efforts to improve the demand for beef are necessary now, more than ever, said Mr. Gracey.

Improved productivity may also ease the situation, and there are signs this is already happening. Estimates suggest that in 1984 Canadian cattlemen produced 17 per cent more beef per cow than they did in 1977.

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For further information please contact:

Charles Gracey (416) 769-3808 or David Walker 427-7132

November 12, 1984

For immediate release

Not a time to expand hog production

This is not a time to expand hog production, Dr. Larry Martin of the University of Guelph told Alberta farmers at a conference in Edmonton November 7.

Instead, he advised producers to reduce their exposure to lower prices and the vagaries of public policy by reducing their debt.

"If you are in debt now, the worst possible thing is to add to it, " Dr. Martin said at Taking Stock, Alberta Agriculture's annual livestock marketing conference.

While Dr. Martin noted that recent USDA reports suggest an improvement in prices during the next few months, he argued that demand has been weakening, and the industry shouldn't be overly optimistic. He warned that technical analysis of the U.S. hog futures market suggests prices could weaken further before they recover.

The decline in demand for pork also has important implications for the long-term future of the industry, he concluded.

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For further information please contact:

Larry Martin (519) 824-4120 or Gordon Herrington 427-5376

November 12, 1984

For immediate release

High interest rates block economic recovery

Farmers will continue to suffer a cost-price squeeze as long as high interest rates stand in the way of economic recovery, says Brian Scarfe, chairman of the economics department at the University of Alberta.

Dr. Scarfe addressed Taking Stock, Alberta Agriculture's annual livestock market outlook conference, in Edmonton November 7.

Before long-lasting economic recovery is possible, he said, the high interest rates created by deficits in Canada and the United States must be reduced. Dr. Scarfe predicted that the Canadian and American governments will reduce their deficits enough to bring interest rates down by one per cent next spring. Such relief would likely be only short-term, however, and an increase in interest rates before the end of 1985 could move North America back into recession in 1986.

The recovery of the Canadian economy has been unbalanced, offering little help to western Canada or to agriculture, said Dr. Scarfe. Canada's efforts to keep the dollar in the 70-cent to 80-cent range relative to the U.S. dollar are partly to blame. Although the Canadian dollar has looked weak alongside the American dollar, it has been strong compared with other currencies. The U.S. recovery has pulled along with it certain sectors of the Canadian economy, like automobile manufacturing, which are sheltered from outside competition. Agriculture and other resource-based industries have remained exposed to competition and mired in the recession.

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High interest rates block economic recovery (cont'd)

Over the past year Canadian policy makers have been too concerned with keeping our dollar high compared with the American dollar, said Dr. Scarfe. The U.S. dollar must eventually slide in relation to the mark, yen and other currencies, and he suggested Canada would be better off had our dollar been allowed to slide a little more over the past year.

Canada will continue to face strong competition in selling meats and other foodstuffs on world markets, Dr. Scarfe said. Only sustained economic recovery on an international scale can change that situation.

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For further information please contact:

Brian Scarfe
432-3306

November 12, 1984

For immediate release

High prices forecast for Alberta feed grains

Feed grain prices are likely to remain high during this crop year, says Marilyn Brack, research director of the Alberta Feed Grain Users' Association.

Speaking at Alberta Agriculture's annual livestock outlook conference November 7 in Edmonton, Ms. Brack said that the combination of low barley inventories and the drought last summer has resulted in the lowest Canadian barley supply in 17 years.

Producers are having to pay premium prices to attract supplies. In August the Lethbridge open market price rose to highs of $3.25 per bushel compared with the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) initial payment of $2.07 per bushel and non-board elevator bids of $2.85 per bushel.

During the rest of the crop year, the amount of premium producers will have to pay will depend on supply, Ms. Brack said. Even with the local premiums, prairie grain producers delivered 1.15 million tonnes of barley to the CWB during the first 12 weeks of this crop year. "If this trend continues, domestic barley supplies could become even tighter," Ms. Brack said.

One factor that could limit prices in the local market is the CWB's corn competitive selling formula, which requires the CWB to offer grain domestically, if it is available, at the formula price of $2.40 per bushel in Alberta. The board is not currently selling grain domestically because of low supplies; however if this changes, the formula price would place a ceiling on local prices.

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For further information please contact:

Marilyn Brack
230-9370

or

Marilyn Johnson
427-4002

November 12, 1984

For immediate release

New injectable insecticide for warble control

A new injectable insecticide for the control of warbles is effective, says Dr. Ali Khan, livestock pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

The product is sold under the brand name Warbex, and contains the insecticide famphur. Dr. Khan says that tests conducted at the Lethbridge research station in 1976 showed Warbex to be 100 per cent effective in controlling warble grubs and improving the weight gains in treated steers.

The method of application for Warbex is different from any other warble treatment now on the market, because it is injected intramuscularly. The recommended rate is 4.4 millilitres per 100 kilograms or 2 millilitres per 100 pounds of body weight.

Warbex should not be used on animals under three months of age or dairy animals of breeding age. Animals must not be slaughtered for use in food for at least 42 days after they are treated.

Warbex is manufactured by the Cyanamid company and sold along with an internal parasite control product under the brand name Parapak.

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New Injectable insecticide for warble control (cont'd)

Dr. Khan says cattlemen now have a choice of four different methods of applying insecticides to control warble grubs. They are as follows:

Method of application	Insecticide/drug
High pressure body spray	Co-Ral (Coumaphos)
Pour-on	Neguvon (Trichlorfon)
Spot-on	Spotton (Fenthion)
Injectables	
- Subcutaneous	- Inomec (Ivermectin)
- Intramuscular	- Warbex (famphur)

More information on controlling warbles can be obtained from district agriculturists and agricultural fieldman, or from Dr. B.A. Khan, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (telephone: 427-9051).

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For further information please contact:

Ali Khan
427-9051

November 12, 1984

For immediate release

Market garden courses

Market gardeners can get the latest information on growing and marketing their produce at three short courses organized by Alberta Agriculture.

The courses are scheduled for Edmonton January 15, 16 and 17, 1985; for Calgary, January 29, 30 and 31; and for Bonnyville, February 6 and 7.

"These courses are for people who grow vegetables or fruit commercially, or those considering going into the business. They are not for the home gardener," says Lloyd Hausher, market garden specialist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center (AHRC) at Brooks.

Topics to be covered during the first day of the three-day courses include vegetable marketing, the planning and management of a market garden, and equipment. Established market gardeners will discuss their production and marketing practices.

Speakers on the second day will cover transplants, mulches and tunnels; vegetable varieties and culture; and vegetable storage and design. The day will wind up with a dinner featuring a producer as guest speaker.

The third day of the course will be devoted to accounting and taxation; weed, insect and disease control; and production of strawberries, raspberries and saskatoons.

The two-day course at Bonnyville will be a condensed version of the other courses.

The registration fee for the Edmonton and Calgary courses will be $10 per person per day or $25 for the three days. The fee for the Bonnyville course will be $10 per day or $20 for the two days. The fee for the dinner alone will be $15. Advance registration is advisable.

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Market Garden Courses (cont'd)

Registration forms and more information are available from: Lloyd Hausher, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO (phone 362-3391); or from Phil Dixon, Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, R.R. 6, Edmonton, T5B 4K3 (phone 973-3351).

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For further information please contact:

Lloyd Hausher	or	Phil Dixon
362-3391		973-3351

November 12, 1984

For immediate release

Custom feeding publication

Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch has just released a new publication that provides economic information on custom cattle feeding, and methods by which farmers can compare custom feedlots.

The title of the publication is *Custom Feeding: Is It An Economical Alternative?*

Gerd Andres of the farm business management branch says the publication summarizes both monetary and other factors to consider when evaluating a custom feedlot. The monetary factors are: the purchase price of feeders, feed costs, interest charges, yardage, drugs and veterinary expenses, and death loss. Other factors are management practices and the physical appearance of the feedlot.

Since expenses are often calculated differently from feedlot to feedlot and farm to farm, the publication includes worksheets that make it possible to compare different custom feedlots, and custom feedlots and farm feedlots.

Copies of *Custom Feeding: Is It An Economical Alternative?* (Agdex 812-8) are available from Alberta Agriculture's district offices; the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO; or the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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For further information please contact:

Gerd Andres
556-4247

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November 12, 1984

For immediate release

Public participation in pesticide registration

Moe Hussain, Alberta Agriculture's pesticide issues coordinator, welcomes the federal government's recent announcement that starting next year, the public will be able to participate in the assessment and registration of pesticides.

In mid-October the federal agriculture minister, John Wise, announced that next spring a secretariat will be set up to provide information on pesticides and receive feedback from the public. An advisory board will also be established to decide complex pesticide questions.

Dr. Hussain encourages farmers to be prepared to make their views known, noting that in the past farmers have tended to be less vocal than some public interest groups on the matter of pesticides.

Anyone wanting more information about the plans for public participation can contact Dr. Hussain at 427-4438.

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For more information please contact:

Moe Hussain
427-4438

November 12, 1984

For immediate release

Beef marketing seminar in Ponoka

"Competition — Change — Challenge" is the theme of Alberta Agriculture's seventh annual beef marketing seminar, planned for Ponoka November 23.

The deadline for registering for the seminar is November 21. The fee is $15 per person or $25 for husband and wife.

Two speakers from Calgary, Ron Tolton of the Canadian Meat Council, and Dennis McGivern of LK Resources Ltd., will discuss different aspects of competition — competition among packing plants, east vs. west, imports and exports, and competition among different meats.

Dr. Dave Elton, political scientist, and economist with the Canada West Foundation, will discuss the changes in store for agriculture in Canada and Alberta. Chris Mills, a cattle consultant from Calgary, will present the Canadian beef outlook and the Alberta perspective. Rick Williams, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Ponoka, will examine the topic of consumers and beef.

For more information about the seminar, please contact Alberta Agriculture's district office at Ponoka, at 783-4476.

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For further information please contact:

Rick Williams
783-4476

For immediate release

New farm women's group plans seminar

Women involved or interested in agriculture are invited to attend a one-day seminar sponsored by a new association called Alberta Women in Support of Agriculture.

The seminar, co-sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, will be held November 22, 1984 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Heritage Inn in High River. The registration fee is $5.

The purpose of the seminar is to examine the image of farm women. This topic will be addressed by three speakers: Connie Osterman, Alberta's minister of consumer and corporate affairs; Garth Cochrane, a CBC farm broadcaster; and Mona Cox, a member of Alberta Agriculture's planning secretariat.

The program will also include a presentation by Alice Brown, a farm woman from Kathryn, Alberta, who challenged the Canadian Wheat Board.

The president of Alberta Women in Support of Agriculture, Alice Groeneveld of Blackie, explains that the group's aims are to promote agriculture, encourage farm women to understand the industry, and to research important issues.

The association was formed late last summer by eight women in the High River area and modelled after similar groups elsewhere in Canada and the United States. Alberta Women in Support of Agriculture now has about 20 members, and Mrs. Groeneveld says she hopes it will grow into a province-wide organization.

Registration forms for the seminar are available from Alberta Agriculture's district offices Red Deer and south. Anyone wanting more information about the seminar or Alberta Women in Support of Agriculture can contact Mrs. Groeneveld at 684-3482.

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For further information please contact:

Alice Groeneveld or Barbara Green, District Home Economist
684-3482 High River
652-3232

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November 12, 1984

For immediate release

District home economist appointed to Thorhild

Christine Dudley has been appointed Alberta Agriculture's district home economist (DHE) at Thorhild. Her appointment is announced by Shirley Myers, head of the home economics branch.

As district home economist, Ms. Dudley will provide information to farm families on food and nutrition, clothing and textiles, farm and home record keeping, home management and energy efficiency. She will also co-ordinate the Nutrition at School program and work with 4-H clubs.

Ms. Dudley was born in Calgary and grew up in southern Alberta. In 1982 she graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in home economics, majoring in family studies.

Since that time she has worked as a Nutrition at School coordinator, and in consumer education. Ms. Dudley started work as a DHE-in-training last April in Alberta Agriculture's Sedgewick office.

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For further information please contact:

Christine Dudley
398-3993

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AGRI-NEWS

November 19, 1984

For immediate release

This Week

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November 19, 1984

For immediate release

Chicken outlook favorable

During 1985, chicken producers can look forward to capturing a larger share of the consumer's food dollar and seeing continued growth in the consumer demand for chicken in Canada.

David Hope, a market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, forecasts chicken disappearance next year to range from 460 million kilograms to 480 million kilograms, up from an estimated 454 million kilograms this year.

The Canadian Chicken Marketing Agency has set its preliminary quota for 1985 at 435 million kilograms, but Mr. Hope expects that to rise.

Between July and September 1984, the chicken market in Canada was very strong, with disappearance 12 per cent higher than a year ago. Supplies of chicken were tight even though third quarter production increased nearly 13 per cent from last year.

Imports of American chicken to the end of September exceeded imports for all of 1983.

In Alberta the demand for chicken followed the national trend, with disappearance in July and August nearly 14 per cent higher than a year ago. In August producers received $1.24 per kilogram for broilers -- more than 10 cents per kilogram higher than the same time last year, and four cents per kilogram higher than at the beginning of 1984.

Weakness appeared in the chicken markets in parts of Canada by late September and continued into October. Mr. Hope expects that, as usual, December will be a slow month

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Chicken outlook favorable (cont'd)

for chicken sales, and for the first time this year imports won't be needed.

In the new year, however, the market should regain a better balance as demand picks up and prices drop somewhat, reflecting lower feed costs elsewhere in Canada.

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For further information please contact:

David Hope
427-5382

For immediate release

Greater stability ahead for egg industry

The Canadian egg industry should stabilize over the next few months after a turbulent year, says David Hope, a market analyst with Alberta Agriculture.

Falling egg prices should help stem the decline in consumption during the rest of this year and in the first part of 1985, says Mr. Hope.

Things have been volatile in the Canadian egg industry since last January when quota was cut back. By the third quarter, egg gradings had decreased by nearly six per cent from a year earlier, a quantity that exceeded the expectations of most observers.

At the same time the disappearance of table eggs declined each month from January to September. Although September sales were above those one year ago, Mr. Hope says it's not clear that the trend has reversed.

In Alberta the decline in the disappearance of table eggs was even more pronounced. "Alberta sales were off by 7.2 per cent in the third quarter compared with the national decline of 2.5 per cent," says Mr. Hope.

Producer prices, meanwhile, were well above last year's levels for all eggs from January to September, mainly as a result of the high cost of feed. In September the consumer price index for eggs was 7 per cent above the 1983 level, compared with an annual increase of 5.6 per cent for all food.

In eastern Canada, reduced feed costs should keep egg prices under the levels of a year earlier during the last part of this year and the first part of next. In Alberta, as

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in the rest of western Canada, tight feed supplies will keep feed costs high, and Mr. Hope expects that producer margins will come under pressure as prices decline.

"In Alberta, considerable inward movement of eggs will be necessary to meet the local demand," concludes Mr. Hope.

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For further information please contact:

David Hope
427-5382

November 19, 1984

For immediate release

Using high nitrate feeds

Many farmers know that drought can cause nitrate to accumulate in cereal crops harvested for greenfeed or silage. Other abnormal conditions such as hail, frost, or cold, cloudy weather may also lead to high nitrate accumulation. Heavy application of weed sprays can have the same effect.

Once samples of your feed supply have been tested for nitrate, you can decide how best to use these feeds.

Feed laboratories in Alberta use different methods to report the level of nitrate in feeds. Dave Plett, Alberta Agriculture's ruminant nutritionist, encourages farmers to be certain of the method of reporting on feeds before using the following table.

	Method of reporting			
	% NO_3	% NO_3—N	% KNO_3	Comments
Less than	0.5	0.12	0.81	Generally safe with no adverse effect on performance expected.
	0.5-1.0	0.12-0.23	0.81-0.163	CAUTION: may cause reduced growth or milk production, possibly a few abortions.
Greater than	1.0	0.23	1.63	HIGH NITRATE FEED: - expect reduced growth and milk production, abortions, death loss.

Although research has shown that the nitrate levels that cause decreased performance or death are highly variable, it's best to play it safe, says Mr. Plett. With that in mind, he offers some suggestions for using high nitrate feeds (HNF).

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Using high nitrate feeds (cont'd)

HNF should be fed with other feeds containing little or no nitrate so that the overall ration falls into the safe zone. For example, it should be safe to feed about 15 pounds of grass hay containing no nitrate with about seven pounds of greenfeed containing 1.5 per cent nitrate. The hay should be fed first to prevent the hungry, aggressive cow from consuming more greenfeed than is safe.

This year many farmers will be forced to feed rations that fall into the "caution" range of nitrate levels. The following guidelines apply to these feeds.

The risk of nitrate poisoning increases when an animal consumes one large meal of HNF as opposed to several smaller meals. Therefore, consider feeding the same total amount of feed in two or three offerings throughout the day rather than all at once.

Over time, the microbes in the rumen will adapt to higher levels of nitrate. If possible, feed a ration that falls into the safe zone for two weeks or so before slowly changing to feed with a higher level.

If you feed rations with a nitrate content approaching one per cent, eliminate urea from the ration and provide supplemental protein from a plant source.

Many problems associated with HNF are due to reduced feed intake, says Mr. Plett. Monitor feed intake as well as you can, and adjust the nutrient content of the rations to ensure that your animals' nutrient needs are being met. Vitamin A should be increased by 50 per cent if rations high in nitrates must be fed.

Detailed recommendations on using high nitrate feed, and information on feed testing are available from district agriculturists, regional livestock supervisors or the Alberta Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory in Edmonton.

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For further information please contact:

Dave Plett
436-9150

November 10, 1984

For immediate release

Watch the purchase price of feeders

Cattle feeders should be very conscious that the purchase price of replacement feeders represents a major production cost, says Dwight Karren, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock supervisor at Lethbridge.

In feeding 900-pound short-keep steers, the cost of the steer makes up over 80 per cent of the total costs. Feed is the next most important factor, representing 13 per cent of the total costs. In contrast, death losses, while very visible to the feeder, represent only one per cent of the total costs. Interest and yardage represent 3.5 per cent and 1.5 per cent respectively.

To place this in perspective, Mr. Karren offers the following illustration: a one-cent increase in the cost of the feeders increases the cost of production about the same amount as a 12-cent per bushel increase in the price of barley, or increasing the interest rate from 14 per cent to 21 per cent, or doubling death losses or yardage.

Most feeders would immediately re-evaluate their feeding intentions if any of these latter circumstances were to occur; yet they would probably accept cattle at one cent above the ordered price without much hesitation.

An Ontario study has shown that 89 per cent of the cattle that lost money last year were bought at a loss.

Feeders wishing to calculate their own costs of production on various classes of feeder cattle can obtain copy of the publication *Feeder Cattle-What Can You Pay? (Agdex 420/816-2)* from Alberta Agriculture's district offices or by writing to the Publication Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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For further information please contact:

Dwight Karren
329-5106

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November 19, 1984

For immediate release

Vitamin A deficiency in cattle

Last summer's drought, which reduced the green grass available in southern Alberta, may result in beef cattle heading into the winter with vitamin A reserves lower than normal. As well, producers may be cutting corners and not supplying sufficient vitamin A to their livestock.

Dr. Norman Harries of Alberta Agriculture says that examinations carried out on beef cattle at the regional veterinary laboratory in Lethbridge show that vitamin A deficiencies could cause problems in inadequately supplemented beef cattle this winter.

Vitamin A controls the growth of bone, especially bone surrounding the brain; it is also necessary for vision in dim light and protects internal body surfaces, for example, the lining of the respiratory and digestive tracts.

Feeder cattle deficient in vitamin A may have convulsions, paralysis or blindness brought on by compression of the brain, explains Dr. Harries. Such cattle may also see poorly at twilight and stumble into feed bunks or other obstacles.

Other effects of vitamin A deficiency are not so clearly defined, but may include increased susceptibility to infection of the eyes and the respiratory system. Pregnant cows that are severely deficient may abort, have retained placentas or give birth to calves that are weak.

Since the signs of vitamin A deficiency may overlap those of other common diseases, Dr. Harries recommends that concerned producers consult with their veterinarian for a correct diagnosis.

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Vitamin A deficiency in cattle (cont'd)

Dr. Harries recommends that vitamin A be given at the time of winter housing to boost dwindling reserves. An intramuscular injection will supply one-half million to one million IU of vitamin A. Following the injection, the feed should be supplemented so that calves receive 20,000 IU, heavy feedlot cattle 30,000 IU, and pregnant cows 40,000 IU per head per day.

Cows are reported to require from 60,000 to 70,000 IU of vitamin A daily between calving and the time they get green grass.

Alternatively, says Dr. Harries, vitamin A can be injected every two to three months.

Veterinarians and nutritionists should be consulted for more detailed advice on the treatment and prevention of vitamin A deficiency in cattle.

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For further information please contact:

Dr. Norman Harries
329-5190

November 19, 1984

For immediate release

New film: Gone With the Wind...Too?

Last spring soil drifting affected over one million acres in central and southern Alberta. Soil loss on this scale could create a serious problem for Alberta farmers if proper control measures aren't taken.

Gone With the Wind...Too? is a new film from Alberta Agriculture that deals with wind erosion and its control.

In view of the seriousness of this year's drought and the resulting high potential for soil erosion next year, the film is especially timely, says John Hermans of Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch.

Mr. Hermans believes the film will be particularly useful this winter. "During the winter we tend to forget about soil erosion when soils are frozen or hidden under the snow," he says.

The 25-minute film contains revealing aerial and ground shots showing the extent of soil drifting northeast of Calgary on June 1, 1984. It discusses the major causes of soil erosion and evaluates soil management practices that should be considered to control it.

The soil conservation techniques shown in *Gone With the Wind...Too?* are not new; practices developed in the 1930s by Dr. Asael Palmer at Lethbridge are still effective. The film's major purpose is to create awareness, says Mr. Hermans, by emphasizing the importance of keeping topsoil protected with crop residue, or as the soil people say, "Keep your stubble up."

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New Film: Gone With the Wind...Too? (cont'd)

Anyone wishing to discuss wind erosion or its control is invited to call John Hermans at the conservation and development branch at 422-4385.

Gone With the Wind...Too? can be borrowed free of charge from Alberta Agriculture. Please write to the Film Library, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

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For further information please contact:

John Hermans
422-4385

November 19, 1984

For immediate release

Alberta horse breeders' conference

Alberta's second annual horse breeders' conference is scheduled for the Capri Centre in Red Deer January 19 and 20, 1985.

The conference is sponsored by a number of horse associations in co-operation with the horse industry branch of Alberta Agriculture for the benefit of anyone who breeds or raises horses for market.

The groups sponsoring the conference are the Alberta Arabian Horse Council, the Alberta Quarter Horse Breeders' Group, the Alberta Standardbred Horse Association, and the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society.

Features of this year's conference include two panel discussions, one on nutritional problems in horses, and a second on banking and the horse industry.

Twenty speakers will cover a variety of topics including breeding for profit, stallion syndication and promotion, the use of hormones to enhance reproductive performance in mares, practical application of equine locomotion research, feeding and conditioning the equine athlete, and significant advances in parasite control.

The registration fee for the conference is $75 per person. More information can be obtained from the Horse Industry Branch, No. 205, 2003 McKnight Boulevard N.E. Calgary, T2E 6L2; telephone 276-7775.

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For further information please contact:

Les Burwash
276-7775

November 19, 1984

For immediate release

Seed marketing conference

Seed for Profit, a conference aimed at helping members of the seed industry improve their marketing skills, is scheduled for November 29 and 30 in Calgary.

Bill Witbeck of Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch says the seminar will cover the basic elements of marketing, how to get the most out of your advertising dollar, and how to set up good customer files. There will also be exhibits of the latest equipment.

Among the speakers are seed growers, a plant breeder and the president of Canada's largest agricultural advertising agency.

The seminar is being sponsored by SeCan Association, an organization that encourages greater use of superior crop varieties. The association also ensures that newly licensed varieties are increased as rapidly as possible and offered in volume to farmers.

The registration fee for the seminar Seed for Profit is $250 per person or $375 per couple. Registration forms and further information are available from Bill Witbeck at the field crops branch in Lacombe, at 782-4641.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Bill Witbeck
782-4641

November 19, 1984

For immediate release

Regional crop production specialist appointed to Barrhead

Bill Chapman has been appointed Alberta Agriculture's regional crop production specialist at Barrhead. His appointment, which was effective November 1, 1984, is announced by John Tackaberry, regional director of the northwest region.

Mr. Chapman majored in agronomy at the University of Saskatchewan, and upon graduating in 1979 joined Hoechst Canada Inc. as a technical representative. He worked throughout Saskatchewan, most recently out of North Battleford. In addition to his regular duties, Mr. Chapman assisted with training of new staff.

Mr. Chapman and his wife Donna have two children, Lauren, aged two years, and Tyler, aged six months.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Bill Chapman
674-8258

AGRI-NEWS

November 26, 1984

For immediate release

This Week

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November 26, 1984

For immediate release

New Forage Seed Council appointed

Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, LeRoy Fjordbotten, has announced the appointment of a new chairman and 11 members to the Alberta Forage Seed Council.

The new council has been established for a three-year period and is composed of producers and representatives of industry and government. Its first meeting was held November 15 and 16 in Edmonton.

The council chairman, Bob Luco of Lethbridge, explains that the council has four guidelines. It is to encourage and promote the grass and legume seed industry in Alberta and provide coordination among growers, processors, merchants and government. The council will also prepare technical and marketing information for all segments of the forage seed trade, and advise the minister of agriculture and staff of Alberta Agriculture and Agriculture Canada on matters of production, research and marketing.

The new producer members are Melvin Langson, Beaverlodge; Bob Garthy, Eaglesham; Brian Moore, Debolt; Frank Kastelic, Sangudo; Arthur Jacques, Oyen; and Bob Luco, Lethbridge. Other council members are Dalton Langson, Alberta branch of the Canadian Seed Growers Association; Dennis Himschoot, Western Seed Trade Association; Gordon Peterson, Alfalfa Seed Producers Association; Dr. Daphne Fairey, Agriculture Canada Research; Bob Prather, Alberta Agriculture marketing; and Myron Bjorge, Alberta Agriculture plant industry.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Bob Luco
427-5357

November 26, 1984

For immediate release

Grain marketing seminar at Rimbey

With drought affecting barley and wheat supplies, and canola prices reaching records in the last eight months, farmers face many unusual circumstances in making their marketing decisions.

Alberta Agriculture's third annual grain marketing seminar will present three speakers to put the situation in perspective for both producers and consumers of grain and canola.

The seminar is scheduled for Rimbey on Thursday December 13, and its theme is "Outlook and marketing strategies for Alberta farmers."

Dr. Brian Oleson of the Canadian Wheat Board will discuss recent changes in the international marketplace, including the continuing strong performance of the agricultural sector in China, and the Soviet Union's increasing imports. He will examine how Canada fits into this competitive and changing marketplace.

Sid Gordon, a farmer and consultant from Neepawa, Manitoba will speak on the importance of marketing to today's farmers. Mr. Gordon will deal with information sources, and advise farmers on what to consider in their marketing decisions. Mr. Gordon will also show how careful marketing strategy has returned extra dollars to his operation.

Alberta Agriculture's market analyst, Dwayne Couldwell, will be the final speaker, and will relate the information provided by the two others to the Canadian and Alberta situation. Mr. Couldwell writes Alberta Agriculture's weekly grains and oilseeds market outlook newsletter. He also has several years of experience in industry, and provides grains and oilseeds outlook for the department.

- (cont'd) -

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Grain marketing seminar at Rimbey (cont'd)

Anyone wishing to attend the seminar must register in advance; registration is limited to 200. The fee is $15 per person or $25 for husband and wife. Lunch is included.

More information and registration for the seminar are available by calling the Alberta Agriculture district office in Rimbey at 843-2201.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Gordon Bacon
District agriculturist, Rimbey
843-2201

November 26, 1984

For immediate release

Preconditioned calf sale dates

Producer response to the preconditioning program for calves has been excellent this year, says the coordinator of the program, Brian Harris.

Veterinarians have requested more than 29,000 tags, compared with about 10,000 last year. "With these numbers, we can expect a good selection of cattle at the 14 preconditioned sales scheduled over the next few weeks," says Mr. Harris.

The preconditioning program certifies that calves have received special handling and care that should enable them to better withstand the adjustment to the feedlot. A survey of feedlot operators in 1983 showed that preconditioned cattle require veterinary treatment only one-third as often as regular calves, and have one-quarter the death loss.

The following is a list of coming preconditioned calf sales.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Nov. 21	10 a.m.	Innisfail Auction Market Innisfail, Alberta
Nov. 27	1 p.m.	Perlich Bros. Auction Market Lethbridge, Alberta
Nov. 28	——	Drayton Valley
Nov. 30	11 a.m.	Balog Auction Market Lethbridge, Alberta
Nov. 30	1 p.m.	Cole's Auction Market Rocky Mountain House, Alberta
Nov. 30	11 a.m.	Stettler Auction Market Stettler, Alberta
Dec. 1	10 a.m.	Vold, Jones & Vold Auction Market, Ponoka, Alberta

- (cont'd) -

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Preconditioned sale dates (cont'd)

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Dec. 3	11 a.m.	Burnt Lake Auction Market Red Deer, Alberta
Dec. 3	10 a.m.	Modern Livestock Auction Market Clyde, Alberta
Dec. 3	10 a.m.	Grande Prairie Auction Market Grande Prairie, Alberta
Dec. 3	10 a.m.	Olds Auction Market Olds, Alberta
Dec. 7	11 a.m.	Balog Auction Market Lethbridge, Alberta
Dec. 7	10 a.m.	Edmonton Public Stockyards Edmonton, Alberta
Dec. 12	10 a.m.	Perlich Bros. Auction Market Lethbridge, Alberta

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Dr. Terry Church
Preventive medicine branch
436-9343

November 26, 1984

For immediate release

Preconditioning pays

Preconditioned calves need veterinary treatment only one-third as much as regular calves, and their death loss is one-quarter that of regular calves, according to a survey just completed by Alberta Agriculture.

This means that feedlot operators can afford to pay at least 3.6 cents per pound more for preconditioned calves, says Brian Harris, coordinator of the preconditioning program. He bases that calculation on the treatment cost of $10 per head, the calves at $450 each and the cost of processing regular calves at $4 per head.

"You can probably also add a figure for improved gain because of less sickness, and calves already started on feed -- plus peace of mind," he says.

Feedlot operators who bought preconditioned calves in 1983 reported having to treat 10 per cent of their preconditioned stock compared with 30 per cent of those not preconditioned. Seventy per cent of the feeders of preconditioned cattle treated less than 10 per cent of the cattle; only 30 per cent of regular herds achieved a treatment rate that low.

Death loss, too, was significantly lower among preconditioned calves -- .5 per cent, compared with 2.8 per cent among regular herds. Among buyers of preconditioned calves, 87 per cent reported no death loss at all.

All in all, preconditioned cattle are a good investment, says Mr. Harris. More than 20,000 calves are being preconditioned this fall in Alberta.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Dr. Terry Church
Preventive medicine branch
436-9343

November 26, 1984

For immediate release

Order Breeder Seed before December 31

December 31 is the deadline for applying for Breeder Seed under the select plot program of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA).

Established select seed growers wishing to obtain Breeder Seed of a SeCan variety should apply directly to SeCan Association in Ottawa, says Bill Witbeck of Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch. He reminds growers that they must have their SeCan membership paid by January 1, 1985, or they will not be eligible for membership in that year.

"SeCan has no intention of accepting late applications, so please remember this deadline," says Mr. Witbeck.

An established select grower who wishes to try a new variety of the same crop can request permission from CSGA in Ottawa to grow a select plot of both varieties for one season, but the combined area of the two plots must not exceed 2.5 acres.

New growers must have probationary status granted by the Alberta Stock Seed Distribution Committee before they can apply for Breeder Seed. Once the Alberta committee grants probationary status, it will notify SeCan that the grower is eligible to receive an allocation of Breeder Seed. To receive probationary status, the applicant must have successfully grown the pedigreed variety of seed applied for during three of the last five years.

Since SeCan controls and distributes its own seed varieties, the applicant must order the seed directly from SeCan in Ottawa. Deadline for this application is December 31.

The maximum plot size allowed for a probationary grower is one acre, and the minimum is one-half acre.

- (cont'd) -

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Order Breeder Seed before December 31 (cont'd)

Application forms for obtaining Breeder Seed, and additional information on the select plot program or the SeCan Association are available from Bill Witbeck, Secretary, Alberta Stock Seed Distribution Committee, Bag Service No. 47, Lacombe, Alberta, TOC 1SO, telephone: 782-4641. SeCan Association's address is No. 512, 885 Meadowlands Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 3N2.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Bill Witbeck
782-4641

November 26, 1984

For immediate release

Stinkweed poisoning in cattle

If you feed hay containing stinkweed, be on the lookout for livestock poisoning, warns a veterinarian with Alberta Agriculture.

Susan Crowe of the regional veterinary laboratory at Airdrie reports that in recent weeks two cases of stinkweed poisoning have occurred in Alberta. In one case, eight pregnant cows died and another 74 of 200 head in the same herd developed severe colic after eating hay that consisted almost entirely of stinkweed. In another herd, hay containing about 25 per cent stinkweed resulted in bloody urine among heifers.

Stinkweed is so common that most producers don't think of it as poisonous.

"But given this year's drought and economics, producers may be tempted to feed stinkweed," says Dr. Crowe. As experience has already shown, stinkweed can be toxic if livestock eat it in large enough quantities.

"Use caution if the hay you feed contains stinkweed, and check with your veterinarian if you suspect poisoning," she advises.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Dr. Susan Crowe
948-6868

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

November 26, 1984

For immediate release

Deadline for directory of farm custom operators

Farm custom operators who would like to be listed in the 1985 edition of Alberta Agriculture's directory of custom operators should contact the farm business management branch by December 31, 1984.

The directory, which will be available next spring, lists custom operators in seven categories: haying, silage, grain, cultivation, applications, livestock, and land clearing and breaking.

Each listing includes the operator's name, telephone number, nearest town, and the type of work done. The directory assists farmers in locating local custom operators, and offers some publicity for the operators. The directory is free.

This is the second year for the publication, and distribution is expected to reach 10,000.

Operators who are listed in the current directory will not be included in the 1985 edition unless they notify the farm business management branch before December 31.

Operators who want to be listed should contact Claire Lukey at the farm business management branch at 556-4236, or write to the branch at Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO.

Farmers interested in receiving a copy of the directory can contact the branch to have their names placed on the mailing list.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Claire Lukey
556-4236

November 26, 1984

For immediate release

Forage tested at Beaverlodge

The production of forage seed for export is a growing industry in the Peace River region, one that is worth an estimated $20 million to producers each year.

Such production frequently involves growing forage varieties that are not native to Canada, so their yield here is unknown. Under those conditions it can be difficult for the grower and seed company to establish a fair contract price.

A forage cultivar program at the federal research station in Beaverlodge is aimed at solving that problem by testing forage varieties required by the export trade, and comparing their performance in the Peace region with that of Canadian standard varieties.

The program, which is a joint project of Agriculture Canada and Alberta Agriculture, is carried out by Henry Najda, a forage agronomist at Beaverlodge.

A booklet has just been released showing the results of this year's trials for brome grass, red fescue, timothy, alfalfa, red clover and alsike clover.

Mr. Najda explains that the forage is tested at six different locations in the Peace region. In addition to testing foreign varieties, each site has demonstration plots of perennial forage suited to the area. Mr. Najda says these plots have proved useful to local seed producers who want to compare variety and species differences in their own regions. He expects that in the long term, the program will provide data for developing recommendations for grasses and legumes to be seeded alone or in mixtures for herbage production.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
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Forage tested at Beaverlodge (cont'd)

Copies of the latest bulletin on Forage Cultivar Trials are available from Henry Najda, Beaverlodge Research Station, Box 29, Beaverlodge, Alberta, TOH OCO, telephone 354-2212.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Henry Najda
354-2212

November 26, 1984

For immediate release

Soil conservation agrologist appointed

Alberta Agriculture's new soil conservation agrologist is W.M. (Mike) Doggart. His appointment to the conservation and development branch is announced by John Hermans, head of the soil and water conservation section.

In his new position Mr. Doggart will assist department staff and agricultural service boards throughout Alberta to develop soil conservation programs.

Mr. Doggart was raised on Vancouver Island. In 1978 he graduated from the University of British Columbia with a B.Sc. in agriculture, majoring in soil science.

For the past two years Mr. Doggart has worked as Alberta Agriculture's forage crop specialist for northeastern Alberta.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Mike Doggart
422-4385

November 26, 1984

For immediate release

Irrigation specialist appointed at Vauxhall

The appointment of Lloyd Healy as Alberta Agriculture's irrigation specialist at Vauxhall is announced by A.E. Pungor, head of the irrigation branch at Lethbridge.

As irrigation specialist, Mr. Healy will manage programs in farm irrigation development and land reclamation. He will also be available to consult with farmers.

Mr. Healy was raised in the Vulcan area. He holds a B.Sc. in agricultural engineering from the University of Alberta, and is finishing an M.Sc. in agricultural engineering.

Before being appointed irrigation specialist, Mr. Healy worked with Alberta Agriculture in Lethbridge on a Farming for the Future project on subsurface drainage for dryland saline seeps.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Lloyd Healy
654-2161

AGRI-NEWS

December 3, 1984

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
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December 3, 1984

For immediate release

Hail and crop insurance corporation pays record claims

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation has already paid a record of more than $125 million to farmers who suffered heavy crop losses this year.

Claims are still being processed and payments could reach $175 million by the time they are all finalized, says Ed Patching, the general manager of the corporation.

"This is by far the largest pay-out ever made by the corporation, and double last year's record of $76 million," he says.

Extreme drought in south and central Alberta was the main cause of the heavy losses, but grasshoppers, more hail than usual, excessive moisture at seeding, and unfavorable harvest conditions in the north all contributed.

Under the corporation's all-risk insurance program, payments so far have totalled more than $85 million, and could reach another $40 million to $50 million.

Mr. Patching says crop adjustments have been completed for fall, but there are another 1,000 policyholders whose crops are snowed under and whose claims can't be finalized until spring. In the meantime, many of these farmers will qualify for advance payments.

The corporation is currently sending out cheques totalling about $10 million per week from its headquarters at Lacombe, and except for snowed under crops, all claims should be paid by Christmas.

In addition to losses for production shortages, the corporation has paid a record of more than $38 million under the hail endorsement to the all-risk program.

- (cont'd) -

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Hail and crop insurance corporation pays record claims (cont'd)

A further $15 million has been paid under the corporation's straight hail insurance program.

While these large payments will use up this year's premium and most of the corporation's reserves, farmers don't need to worry about whether there is enough money to pay for all their claims, says Mr. Patching. An arrangement with the provincial and federal governments provides for ample funds to pay for all losses this year and in the future.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Ed Patching
782-4661

For immediate release

Food Processing Development Centre opens at Leduc

A centre opening December 6 at Leduc will enable Alberta's food processors to develop new products and adapt food processing technologies to their operations.

"Our aim is to help Alberta processors become more competitive," says Dave Schroder, head of the Food Processing Development Centre, which was built using $8.6 million from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

The 30,000-square foot centre consists of a product development laboratory and a processing plant equipped to carry out most food processes on a pilot scale. The centre will have nearly $2 million worth of equipment. The centre also has an information centre which will provide technical and trade information and offer computer access to further information.

The centre will operate under federal inspection so that meat products developed there can be shipped throughout Canada and abroad.

Although the centre's staff of seven includes specialists with experience in the food industry and research, some of the work will be done using staff and materials supplied by the processors themselves.

There will be no charge to processors using the centre unless a project takes extended time, equipment or materials. Results will remain the property of the client, and confidentiality is protected.

Dr. Schroder says the centre will complement other marketing services offered by Alberta Agriculture, and when appropriate, will work in cooperation with other research facilities.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Dave Schroder
986-4793

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

For immediate release

Hog outlook

Alberta producers are expected to continue extensive liquidation of their herds during the fourth quarter of this year and the first quarter of 1985.

Prices in the province, meanwhile, will increase to $70 per hundredweight for Index 100 hogs by year-end, and $75 to $80 per hundredweight during the first six months of 1985, according to Gordon Herrington, Alberta Agriculture's livestock market analyst.

He says that as usual, Alberta price trends will generally follow those of the U.S. market, with two exceptions.

First, weak demand in Alberta over Christmas and New Year's may force the price down, temporarily widening the differential between local prices and those in U.S. markets.

Second, Alberta's hog slaughter capacity should rise to 35,000 to 36,000 head from the current level of 29,000 head in late January when new facilities, now being installed, go into operation. The proportion of live hogs being shipped out of Alberta should thus decrease, reducing transfer costs.

The increased capacity, along with reduction in hog output, should have a positive effect on prices, says Mr. Herrington.

The effect of the current herd liquidation won't show up until the end of the first quarter of 1985, but Alberta's output next year could drop by as much as 10 per cent from 1984, he says.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Gordon Herrington
427-5376

December 3, 1984

For immediate release

Good outlook for lamb prices

The outlook for Alberta lamb prices is positive for the rest of this year and the first quarter of 1985, says Marilyn Johnson, a market analyst with Alberta Agriculture.

Some added good news for producers is that prices should stay strong until May or June instead of peaking at Easter as they usually do.

Ms. Johnson expects lamb prices to range between $73 and $78 per hundredweight live until the end of this year, rising to the $77 to $82 range in the first quarter of 1985.

The reasons for this outlook include an overall reduction in meat supplies and apparent strong consumer demand for lamb.

One sign of this consumer demand, says Ms. Johnson, is that although Alberta's numbers of slaughter lambs were well above 1983 levels during the first nine months of this year, prices did not fall. Prices for premium lambs in Alberta were more than $14 per hundredweight higher in the third quarter of this year than last year.

Between July 1, 1983 and July 1, 1984 the number of sheep and lambs declined in Alberta, as it did in the rest of Canada. Alberta's reduction of four per cent in sheep numbers was the largest of the three major sheep producing provinces.

Canadian lamb supplies were sufficient, however, to cause a 27 per cent decline in the amount of lamb imported in the third quarter. So far this year, Canada's imports of lamb from New Zealand, our major supplier, are less than half of what they were in 1983.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Marilyn Johnson
427-4002

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December 3, 1984

For immediate release

Cattle outlook

Alberta Agriculture's livestock market analyst expects slaughter cattle prices to stay strong for the rest of the fourth quarter of 1984 and the first quarter of 1985.

Gordon Herrington says prices for A1, 2 steers could reach $80 to $82 per hundredweight during February or March, but beyond that any increase is not likely. If supplies are heavy, prices could even drop $5 to $6 per hundredweight in April and May.

The only positive factor in the market, says Mr. Herrington, is the expected reduction of pork supplies, but even that will be modified by an increase in poultry output.

In Alberta good numbers of finished cattle should be available until mid-1985. It appears that a higher number of calves than usual were placed on feed after weaning, and a significant number of yearlings were placed in September and early October.

This fall brought a higher demand from eastern Canada for feeder cattle and calves than usual, based on the assumptions that slaughter prices in 1985 will be at least as high as 1984, and that feeding costs will be lower. Mr. Herrington says this demand should continue until the end of the year.

Reduced slaughter capacity during the third quarter of 1984 held slaughter numbers in Alberta to 302,353 head, 10 per cent less than 1983, and the lowest volume in years. Total output was high, however, because 93,000 head of cattle were moved out of Alberta, nearly three times as many as in 1983.

- 30 -

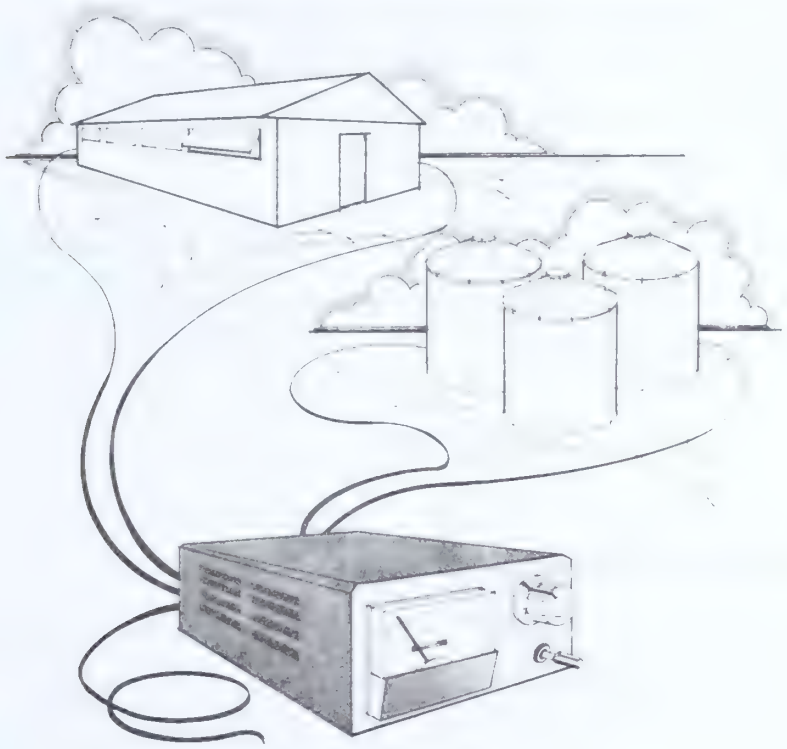
For further information please contact:

Gordon Herrington
427-5376

December 3, 1984

For immediate release

Build your own remote temperature monitor



Remote temperature monitor: This low-cost unit is easy to build and monitors temperatures up to one-quarter mile away.

How many times have you wanted to know the temperature in the barn, the grain bins, or the garden without going out to check?

Alberta Agriculture's engineers have come up with a low-cost temperature monitor that's easy to build and will give you a temperature reading from up to one-quarter of a mile away.

The unit can measure temperatures in 11 different locations using electronic sensors connected to the monitor with ordinary speaker wire.

- (cont'd) -

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Build your own remote temperature monitor (cont'd)

The monitor costs less than $50 and takes about three hours to build. All the parts are available at local electronics shops or from mail order distributors.

"You don't need to know anything about electronics to build this monitor," says Edwin Thornton, who designed it. Moreover, he says, the project might be an easy way to learn about practical electronics.

Free copies of the publication *Build Your Own Remote Temperature Monitor (Agdex 775-2)* are available from the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Edwin Thornton
427-2181

December 3, 1984

For immediate release

Study of how farmers spend their time

There's a widespread belief that after putting the combine away after harvest, most grain farmers retire to the local curling rink for the winter.

That's one of many popular assumptions about how farmers spend their time. Now Maryanne Doherty and Norah Keating of the University of Alberta are collecting facts to prove or disprove such ideas.

What sets their study apart is that this is the first time anyone in Canada has tried to pinpoint exactly what farmers do with their time -- how many hours they work on and off the farm; what chores, including household tasks, occupy their time; and how farming as an occupation affects the family.

Dr. Doherty explains that although previous studies have looked at the roles of farm women, there is a limited amount of information about men who farm.

"The study should give us a true picture of farming in Alberta as seen by both men and women," she says.

The study is being funded by Farming for the Future, and its results should have several uses. The information is likely to interest rural people, and may help to better inform the non-farm public about agriculture. Government and industry may find the data helpful in planning loan or other programs.

Dr. Doherty and Dr. Keating also expect the study to raise issues as wide-ranging as whether isolation is a problem among farmers, how commonly farmers exchange work, and how farming affects the health of family members.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
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Phone: (403) 427-2121

Study of how farmers spend their time (cont'd)

In late November questionnaires were sent to 1,500 grain and oilseed growers in Alberta. The researchers have requested that questionnaires be returned by December 15, and plan to release the results late next spring.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Dr. Maryanne Doherty
432-3653

or

Dr. Norah Keating
432-4191

December 3, 1984

For immediate release

Parkland wheat production needs attention, says researcher

Not enough attention is being paid to the special needs of wheat production and research in Alberta's parkland, says Keith Briggs, a wheat breeder at the University of Alberta.

In particular, early maturing varieties are needed so that the parkland can reach its high potential as a wheat-growing area, says Dr. Briggs. He would like to contact wheat growers from the parkland and stimulate the formation of a wheat farmer group for the area.

About one-third of Alberta's wheat acreage, 3.6 to 4.1 million acres, lies in the parkland, which consists roughly of all areas from Red Deer north.

Growers in the parkland face conditions much different from those of the long-season, relatively hot areas of the Palliser Triangle in the southern prairies. Yet most wheat research has been aimed at the Palliser area, says Dr. Briggs. "In terms of research, the parkland has always come off second best," he says.

On the positive side, the parkland has high rainfall, and plants there use available water more efficiently than do those in drier areas. Limiting wheat production in the parkland, however, are cooler temperatures, a short growing season and, often, poor harvesting conditions that lead to low grades -- 3 CW or Feed. Dr. Briggs points out that spring wheat grown in the parkland tends to be high yielding but lower in protein than wheat grown in the Palliser.

Dr. Briggs intends to gather a group of wheat growers to work either alone or through an existing commodity group, to advise researchers on the topics of greatest concern.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
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Parkland wheat production needs attention, says researcher (cont'd)

Such topics might include the need for early maturing wheats, harvesting systems, reduced tillage systems, special disease problems, ways of improving wheat grades, and the economics of wheat production in the parkland.

Dr. Briggs is putting together a mailing list of parkland wheat growers interested in the proposed group.

If you would like your name added to the list, please write to Dr. Keith G. Briggs, Plant Science Department, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E3.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Dr. Keith Briggs
432-4502

December 3, 1984

For immediate release

Ron Weisenburger appointed head of beef cattle and sheep branch

The appointment of Ron Weisenburger as head of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch is announced by J.S. Lore, director of the animal industry division.

In his new position Mr. Weisenburger will be responsible for programs and policies that affect the provincial beef and sheep industry. Branch activities revolve around service to the industry through extension programs; applied research and demonstrations; contact with industry; and farming, implementing and assessing policies, legislation and regulations.

Mr. Weisenburger was raised on a mixed farm south-east of Red Deer. In 1970 he graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in agriculture, and in 1976 received his M.Sc., also from the University of Alberta, specializing in ruminant nutrition.

Mr. Weisenburger joined Alberta Agriculture in 1970 as a district agriculturist. Between 1972 and the present he has held several positions in the animal industry division, most recently that of head of the animal nutrition section in Edmonton.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Ron Weisenburger
427-5083

December 3, 1984

For immediate release

Alberta 4-H trio win international judging seminar

Three senior Alberta 4-H members were among the top winners of the 1984 International 4-H Judging Seminar during Agribition at Regina.

Bill Dietrich of Heisler, a member of the Hastings Coulee 4-H Beef Club, placed third in the aggregate competition. Grace Kallal of the Vimy 4-H Beef Club was seventh, followed by Tane Wright, Westerose, a member of the Pipestone 4-H Dairy Club, who placed ninth out of 48 competitors. Tane was first in sheep judging and second in dairy judging. Bill was third in sheep and horse judging.

The three-day competition was sponsored by Canadian Western Agribition and John Deere Ltd.

The competitors represented British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, the Maritimes and Montana. They were required to give written and oral reasons in judging the qualities of beef and dairy cattle, light horse, sheep and swine.

Other Alberta 4-H members competing in the annual event were Ken Braat, Coaldale 4-H Swine Club; Shauna Meyer, Calgary, Foothills 4-H Sheep Club; Chris McCullough, Wandering River 4-H Light Horse Club; Jim Keith, Byemoore, Rainbow Riders 4-H Light Horse Club; and Brad Pederson, Millet 4-H Dairy Club.

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For further information, please contact:

Elton Dunk
427-2541

AGRI-NEWS

December 10, 1984

For immediate release

This Week

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

December 10, 1984

For immediate release

Honey industry guards against mite

The tracheal mite, a honey bee pest discovered in Mexico in 1980 and recently found as close as North Dakota, doesn't seem to have reached Alberta yet. But Alberta's beekeepers and the provincial apiarists are taking no chances.

No one knows how the mite would react in Alberta's climate, but some experts say that if 30 per cent of the adults in a hive are infested, honey production can drop right down to nil. At present no chemicals are registered in Canada for use against the mite.

Doug Colter, Alberta Agriculture's chief apiary inspector, is checking 10 per cent of the sites in Alberta where an estimated 71,000 bee colonies are overwintering. So far he's found no sign of the mite.

The greatest danger of infestation, however, is that the mite could get into Alberta along with the packaged bees that Alberta beekeepers import every spring, mostly from California.

The Alberta Beekeepers' Association and the Canadian Honey Council agree that closing the border completely to packaged bees isn't feasible because it would leave many producers without bees for next year. Fewer than half of Alberta's 208,000 bee colonies are overwintered; the remainder are imported.

Mr. Colter says that most producers were relieved when American authorities agreed last week to inspect bees destined for Canada and certify them free of the mite.

One hurdle remains before Alberta beekeepers will be able to order California bees with confidence, however. Although the state appears to be free of the tracheal mite, bees there are now being checked, and the sampling won't be finished until the new year.

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Honey industry guards against mite (cont'd)

In the meantime Alberta beekeepers are being cautious. Mr. Colter says that orders from Alberta producers for packaged California bees are only about one-third of normal.

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For further information please contact:

Doug Colter
837-2252

December 10, 1984

For immediate release

Open rapeseed quota should step up grain deliveries

Farmers in northern Alberta are likely to reallocate their rapeseed acreage to grain and start delivering it to elevators immediately.

That is the reaction Dwayne Couldwell, Alberta Agriculture's grain market analyst, expects to the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) announcement November 26 that quotas are open for rapeseed, rye and flax.

Such reallocation will mean that farmers will finish delivering their wheat and barley a couple of months earlier than usual. The opening of the quota will have no effect in southern Alberta, however, where quotas are already unusually wide and are expected to be open by the end of the year.

The recent CWB announcement had an unfortunate effect on rapeseed prices, says Mr. Couldwell, noting they dropped by $5 per bushel the day of the announcement and were still down $3 the day after. The opening of a quota always has a discounting effect because some farmers sell their crops immediately, he explains. That discount is usually temporary, but this time it may have toppled rapeseed prices, which had been running extremely high relative to the world oilseed market.

"The recent downturn in rapeseed prices has me seriously questioning whether the expected post-harvest rally will develop," says Mr. Couldwell. "Prices next spring are expected to be trending lower and there may not be time for prices to develop a sustained rally before then."

Behind the CWB's decision to open the rapeseed quota is its desperate need to get enough grain to fill its contracts, given the reduction in this year's crop. "For wheat we'll be able to fill long-term contracts only," says Mr. Couldwell. He adds that barley export

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Open rapeseed quota should step up grain deliveries (cont'd)

could be down 45 per cent and Canada may have difficulty in meeting the requirements of some of its traditional customers.

"The board realizes it must get grain off farms by spring, or there's a danger farmers will hang on to it," says Mr. Couldwell. To the extent producers reallocate rapeseed acres to grain now, the delivery of wheat and barley should improve.

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For further information please contact:

Dwayne Couldwell
427-5386

December 10, 1984

For immediate release

Turkey market in good shape

With Christmas just weeks away, Alberta Agriculture's poultry analyst has some reassuring news for both consumers and producers: the turkey market is in good shape.

David Hope says consumers can expect to find ample supplies of turkeys in retail stores, and if this December is like the past few, there should be plenty of special prices. Yet in January, when the demand for turkey has passed its annual peak, the industry should be left with reasonable, but not excessive, stocks of frozen turkey -- in other words, not too many leftovers.

In 1985 Canadian turkey producers can look forward to increasing their production. The Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency has increased the quota by 3.5 per cent to just under 100 million kilograms.

Lower feed costs in eastern Canada should cause turkey prices there to decline and prices in other provinces will probably follow suit. That may make raising turkeys a little less profitable in Alberta because feed costs here will not fall as much.

In October Alberta producers received $1.57 per kilogram for broilers, $1.58 per kilogram for hens and $1.53 per kilogram for toms, a substantial increase from a year ago. By the end of October Alberta turkey production for 1984 had reached 7.2 million kilograms.

Looking ahead, Mr. Hope says further growth in the turkey industry depends on getting more processed turkey into the market. "There's a definite limit to the number of whole birds people can consume," he says, adding that in the United States it's estimated

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Turkey market in good shape (cont'd)

that the sale of whole birds makes up only 30 per cent of the turkey market. By comparison, Canada's processed turkey industry is undeveloped, says Mr. Hope.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

David Hope
427-5382

December 10, 1984

For immediate release

Agro-Electronic show planned for Vermilion

The third annual Agro-Electronic show will be held March 1 and 2, 1985 at Lakeland College, Vermilion.

The show is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture's engineering branch and the University of Alberta to demonstrate the latest in electronic technology for the farm.

Dave Scott of Alberta Agriculture expects the 1985 show to have between 70 and 80 exhibits of electronic aids including monitoring and control equipment, dairy equipment, computers and security systems.

The show will also offer three computer workshops, and a laboratory will be set up to enable people to try running various programs. Three seminars will be held to introduce the public to electronic applications on the farm and the use of microcomputers.

Another facet of the show will be guided tours of Lakeland College including the computerized dairy barn, horse barn, beef barns and the AI facility.

For more information about the Agro-Electronic Show, please contact Dave Scott, Engineering Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6; telephone 427-2181.

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For further information please contact:

Dave Scott
427-2181

December 10, 1984

For immediate release

Potential problems with low quality roughages

Reports from veterinarians suggest that Alberta cattle have a higher incidence of rumen impaction than usual because they are being fed straw and low quality roughages.

Dale ZoBell, Alberta Agriculture's livestock specialist at Red Deer, says that with this year's early winter, cattlemen are facing some serious decisions and high feed costs.

To minimize costs many producers are altering their traditional feeding practices -- as much as possible they are working low quality roughages like straw into rations, and saving higher quality hay and greenfeed for feeding just before and after calving.

Maintenance requirements for an average size cow can be met using straw, grain and beef supplement along with sound management practices, says Mr. ZoBell. Any time a roughage like straw is used, there is a potential for health problems unless the ration is balanced.

An animal's intake of straw can vary greatly but usually isn't more than 1.5 per cent of body weight. If high straw rations are fed, adequate protein, minerals, vitamins and supplementary energy are also needed.

"Grinding straw increases the amount cattle will eat, but also increases the potential for problems like rumen impaction," says Mr. ZoBell. Excessive levels of low quality straw without adequate grain supplementation to provide energy and protein can leave the forage undigested and cause impaction. Lack of water may also contribute.

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Potential problens of low quality roughage (cont'd)

This winter may be very long and costly for Alberta's cattle producers. Feed costs must be kept low if possible, but not to the detriment of the physical well-being of the animal being fed. If you require assistance in ration formulation or animal nutrition, contact your nearest Alberta Agriculture district or regional office, or consult with your veterinarian.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Dale ZoBell
340-5334

For immediate release

1984 custom tillage charges

Depending on the operation, charges for custom tillage in 1984 showed both increases and decreases compared with 1983. This was the finding of the annual survey of custom tillage operators conducted in November, 1984 by the statistics branch and the farm business management branch of Alberta Agriculture.

The following table compares the 1983 and 1984 rates for each operation.

Charge for custom tillage operations per acre

Region	Most common 1984 charges:	Most common 1983 charges:	Range for 1984
Cultivating			
South	$4.50-5.50	$3.75-4.40	$3.00-7.00
Central	$4.90-6.00	$5.00	$2.50-11.60
North	$4.50-7.50	$3.00-3.50	$3.00-10.00
Discing			
South	$4.50-6.00	$3.50-6.00	$3.40-7.00
Central	$3.70-5.85	$6.50-7.00	$3.70-5.85
North	$6.00-10.00	$4.50-7.00	$4.00-25.00
Plowing			
South	* $3.40-17.00	$17.00-19.00	* $3.40-17.00
Central	* $11.60	--	* $11.60
North	$6.00-7.50	$8.00-12.50	$6.00-15.00
Rototilling			
South	$55-73	$68-86 $115-135/hr	$55-73
Central	--	$75 $100/hr	--
North	--	--	--
Harrowing			
Alberta	$1.75-3.40	$1.75-2.50	$1.75-4.00

* Two reports or fewer

- (cont'd) -

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1984 custom tillage charges (cont'd)

Compared with 1983, cultivation charges increased throughout Alberta, discing prices increased in northern Alberta but decreased in central Alberta, and plowing charges decreased throughout Alberta. Reototilling and harrowing charges changed little from 1983 to 1984.

Claire Lukey of the farm business management branch suggests the actual rate charged depends on the size and terrain of the field, whether it is small and hilly or large and even; the condition of the land, whether it is pasture, hay, summerfallow or cropland; whether the work includes one or more passes; and the size of power unit and implement the operator uses. Each of these alters the operator's input costs of fuel, labor and repairs, and the rate charged varies accordingly.

Further information on custom rates for all farm operations can be obtained from local district agriculturists, the farm business management branch in Olds (556-4240) or the statistics branch in Edmonton (427-4018).

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For further information please contact:

Claire Lukey
556-4236

December 10, 1984

For immediate release

Grazing management symposium in four locations

The Alberta Grazing Management Symposium for 1985 will be held in four locations. They are Grande Prairie February 11, Westlock February 12, Vermilion February 13 and Olds February 14.

The symposium is being sponsored by the Alberta Forage Institute and local forage associations along with Alberta Agriculture. Its purpose is to keep forage producers in touch with the latest pasture management techniques.

Registration forms and more information will be available from Alberta Agriculture's district offices and forage associations in January.

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For further information please contact:

Ken Lopetinsky
Forage and special crops specialist
674-8258

December 10, 1984

For immediate release

District home economist appointed to St. Paul

Rebecca Lore is Alberta Agriculture's new district home economist (DHE) at St. Paul. Shirley Myers, head of the home economics branch, announced the appointment.

Ms. Lore will provide farm families in the St. Paul area with information and services related to all areas of home economics, with emphasis on financial management. She will also work with 4-H clubs and the Nutrition at School program.

Ms. Lore was raised in Edmonton, and graduated earlier this year with a B.Sc. in home economics from the University of Alberta. Since April she has worked as a DHE-in-training in Alberta Agriculture's office at Pincher Creek.

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For further information please contact:

Rebecca Lore
645-6301

December 10, 1984

For immediate release

Product development supervisor appointed

Edward Phillipchuk has been appointed supervisor of product development at Alberta Agriculture's Food Processing Development Centre at Leduc. His appointment is announced by Dave Schroder, head of the centre.

As product development supervisor, Mr. Phillipchuk will coordinate the centre's efforts to help Alberta's food processors become more competitive by applying new technology and developing new products.

The centre is a food processing and development pilot plant equipped with testing and processing equipment, a laboratory and an information centre to help food processors solve industrial problems.

Mr. Phillipchuk was born in Edmonton. He has two degrees from the University of Alberta: a B.Sc. in agriculture, and an M.Sc. specializing in food microbiology. From 1971 to 1973 he was a lecturer in the department of food science at the University of Alberta. Since 1973 he has been employed as an industrial technology advisor with the Alberta Research Council, providing technical information and advice to Alberta food processors.

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For further information please contact:

Edward Phillipchuk
986-4793

AGRI-NEWS

December 17, 1984

For immediate release

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December 17, 1984

For immediate release

Year-end planning to reduce the farm tax bite

Farmers may end 1984 with a tight cash flow and a small bank balance, yet face a high tax bill.

Merle Good of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch points out that in order to reduce high operating costs, farmers may have sold additional inventory or made capital sales to pay off loans. The revenue from these transactions will be included in 1984 income, but the loan principal payment is not an expense. Only interest is deductible as an expense on loan payments.

Mr. Good suggests that to avoid being surprised, you might check your income and expense records before considering various tax strategies.

* Be sure to include all expense items. Out-of-pocket purchases are often missed, resulting in minor items costing considerably more. For example, if a farmer doesn't claim a $1.00 purchase, the net cost of the item, assuming a 25 per cent tax bracket, is $1.33.

* Individual tools and equipment purchased for more than $200 must be depreciated. Purchases under $200 are fully deductible in the year of payment, however.

* Include the business portion of various expenses. One-quarter of house maintenance and utility expenses, and up to two-thirds of car expenses, including depreciation, can usually be claimed.

* Annual accounting and legal fees for farm management and income tax can be deducted. Legal, appraisal and accounting fees associated with buying land and equipment are added to the capital cost of the asset.

* Government subsidies or rebates that were received must be reported as income for the year if they were designed to reduce expenses or compensate for income loss in previous years.

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Year-end planning to reduce the farm tax bite (cont'd)

* Proper procedures should be followed when reporting income from unusual sources like patronage dividends, general insurance proceeds, commodity trading, and oil and gas lease revenues. An Agri-Fax sheet entitled *Reporting Unusual Farm Income for Tax Purposes* is available from the farm business management branch and provides more information.

* Recent information from Revenue Canada indicates that crop insurance indemnities made in compensation for crop loss in 1984 may be deferred to 1985.

* A reasonable amount can be deducted as an expense for business travel and for up to two conventions per year. Eligible expenses include travel, registration fees, meals and lodging. Make sure you have receipts to document these expenses.

* Since the November 12, 1981 budget, only one-half the normal capital cost allowance (CCA) is deductible in the purchase year of a depreciable asset, net of any trade-ins.

* A recent federal court ruling has stated that interest charges associated with commodity trading that yield a capital gain can be added to the original purchase price of the contract and thereby reduce your capital gains or increase your capital loss on disposition of the contract.

Once you have determined your projected taxable income, you can decide whether you want to adjust it, and if so, in what direction.

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For further information please contact:

Merle Good
556-4237

For immediate release

Tax strategies for a high income year

Farmers who have a good year and want to reduce their taxable income can use nearly a dozen strategies for this purpose. They should remember, however, that the objective is to maximize profits, not minimize taxes, says Merle Good of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch.

Following is a list of the strategies.

* Purchase supplies at year-end. Even with high interest rates, says Mr. Good, it may pay to borrow money to take advantage of significant tax deductions and early purchase discounts.

* Use a deferred grain ticket to reduce income and increase expenses. Endorse the ticket and give it to your supply dealer as a type of post-dated cheque. The result is a deductible expense in 1984 and deferral of income until 1985 when the dealer cashes the ticket.

* Pay your spouse and children a salary for work they do on the farm. An added benefit of this strategy is that your spouse will be eligible for Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and be able to contribute to a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP). A salary of approximately $6,760 will not attract a tax liability in 1984. In a 30 per cent tax bracket, claiming this salary instead of the usual spousal marriage deduction would save $750.

Children under 18 can earn $2,540 and children 18 and up can earn $2,600 before your exemption claim for them is reduced.

* Buy any machinery you need before the year end, both for the capital cost write-off and investment tax credit (ITC) on new purchases. This strategy isn't as effective as it once

- (cont'd) -

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Tax strategies for a high income year (cont'd)

was, says Mr. Good, because you can now claim only one-half the normal capital cost allowance (CCA) in the year the equipment was purchased. The investment tax credit is still available, and has been extended to new trucks with a gross vehicle weight of over 26,001 pounds. You can claim ITC on new trucks purchased in 1979 and up to the present provided an appropriate reduction to the CCA schedule is made.

* Contribute to an RRSP, especially if you earn more than $1,000 in interest income or dividends. The use of RRSPs for income averaging is rising, says Mr. Good. Contributions are deductible and there are no restrictions when you withdraw the money, except for a small withholding tax.

* Consider loaning funds to your spouse and children on an interest-free demand note. They can invest the money and earn up to $1,000 of interest tax-free each year. Interest exceeding $1,000 will be taxed in the hands of the borrower.

* Use cash to retire any personal loans and if necessary, re-borrow the money under a business loan. Interest on the new loan will be deductible because it is used for business purposes. In effect, you will be exchanging a non-deductible interest loan for a deductible interest loan.

* When receiving rebates on machinery you've bought, ask the manufacturer to send the rebate to you, not the dealer. This allows you to claim ITC and CCA on the full purchase price, and not the net difference.

* Be aware of changes to ITC and non-capital losses contained in the April 19, 1983 budget. Investment tax credits earned in 1984 can be carried back three years and forward seven years instead of five years. For investments purchased between April 15, 1983 and May 1, 1986, a 40 per cent refundable credit is available from Revenue Canada. To qualify for the refund, the ITC earned in 1984 must be applied to any federal tax payable. If the

Tax strategies for a high income year (cont'd)

ITC cannot be used in the current year, it must be carried back one year before the refundable credit is available. The balance remaining after the refund is carried forward.

* The $100 standard medical-charitable donation will not be available in 1984. Receipts will be required.

* If your spouse has no taxable income, be sure to claim the $200 federal tax reduction.

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For further information please contact:

Merle Good
556-4237

For immediate release

Tax strategies for a low income year

Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch has some suggestions for farmers who want to increase their taxable income. Increasing taxable income enables farmers to make full use of personal exemptions and Canada Pension Plan contributions, or to claim previous business losses.

Remember, if you do not claim these each year, they are lost until you file a five-year block average.

* Increase income by selling inventories, postponing payment of expenses and deducting less than the maximum allowable capital cost allowance (CCA).

* Investigate the amendments in the federal budget of April 19, 1983, which permit capital losses incurred in 1984 to be carried back three years and forward 10 years rather than back one year and forward five years. In addition to extending the time limit, the amendments drastically altered the procedure for claiming losses. The application of losses to bring net income to nil is no longer required. The result is that individuals may now use their personal exemptions, the $1,000 interest dividend deduction, and the tax-free zone of $2,000.

* Use the livestock inventory provision (LIP) to artificially boost 1984 income. If you have livestock, you may add to your current year's income any amount up to the fair market value of the livestock. The amount added to income in one year must be deducted from the following year's income, however.

* Withdraw all or part of your RRSP. A withdrawal in a low income year may result in overall tax savings. A withholding tax will be paid when you withdraw from your RRSP, but this amount will be credited to income tax payable for 1984.

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Tax strategies for a low income year (cont'd)

* Cash grain tickets, take cash advances or sell assets that trigger capital gains. Any of these actions will bring more income into the tax year and allow a reduction of debt and interest costs without a corresponding tax liability.

* Use the block averaging provision to produce a refund of taxes paid in one or more of the past five or six years. The quirk in the rules that once allowed investment tax credit to be claimed twice when using the block average is no longer available.

* Livestock producers should claim the maximum CCA deduction in conjunction with the livestock inventory provision. This will artificially add income, and enable them to generate a larger deductible expense in a subsequent high income year.

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For further information please contact:

Merle Good
556-4237

December 17, 1984

For immediate release

Agricultural land transfers drop

In the third quarter of 1984 the number of acres of agricultural land transferred in Alberta dropped dramatically from 10-year averages, according to Alberta Agriculture's most recent real estate situation report.

Peter Woloshyn of the production and resource economics branch explains that every year since the department began keeping data the second quarter has been the period of peak transfer. The volume of land transferred has always decreased between the second and third quarters.

This year, however, almost 53 per cent fewer acres were transferred in the third quarter than in the second quarter, compared with an average of 25 per cent between 1972 and 1983.

Third quarter transfers in 1984 were also below the average for the past 10 years, says Mr. Woloshyn. From 1973 to 1983 the average acreage transferred in the third quarter was 678,000 acres, while for 1984 it was only 243,000 acres.

The average value per acre continued to decline. Since the fourth quarter of 1982, average values have decreased every quarter compared with the same quarter of the previous year. The average value per acre in the third quarter of 1984 was nearly nine per cent lower than the second quarter.

Mr. Woloshyn says that the slowdown in farmland transfers may be linked to the generally poor economic climate. Last summer's drought, which reduced cash flow, may have forced many potential buyers to put off land purchase decisions.

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Agricultural land transfers drop (cont'd)

Mr. Woloshyn cautions that the information in the agricultural real estate report should not be used as a guide for individual transactions because it doesn't distinguish between raw land and land with buildings.

Copies of *The Alberta Agricultural Real Estate Situation* report for the third quarter of 1984 are available from the Production and Resource Economics Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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For further information please contact:

Peter Woloshyn
427-4026

December 17, 1984

For immediate release

Two Albertans named to 4-H Hall of Fame

C. Les Usher

Ed Ness

C. Les Usher of Edmonton and Ed Ness of Calgary were inducted into the Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame in recognition of their outstanding contributions to 4-H in Alberta.

Mr. Usher and Mr. Ness are the seventeenth and eighteenth people to be honored in this way. The announcement of their appointments was made at a gathering of 330 4-H leaders at the 43rd annual Provincial 4-H Leaders' Conference on December 4 in Edmonton.

C . Les Usher

Mr. Usher was born at Scollard, Alberta. He is a former beef club member, was assistant 4-H supervisor from 1949 to 1956, supervisor of 4-H from 1955 to 1966, and later served as deputy minister with the provincial government.

Under Mr. Usher's direction the 4-H program broadened its base considerably, placing greater emphasis on leadership and communication training, project work, and travel

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Two Albertans named to 4-H Hall of Fame (cont'd)

opportunities for leaders and members. The volunteer council structure was also established during this time, allowing members and leaders to take greater responsibility for their own programs.

Mr. Usher was extremely active at the national level, serving as president of the Canadian 4-H Council in 1969, and first president of the Canadian 4-H Foundation from 1971 to 1973.

Ed Ness

Ed Ness was born in Bergen, Norway, and raised in the Carmangay area of Alberta. He became associated with 4-H as a result of his responsibilities with the Alberta Wheat Pool. Appointed as a field representative at Drumheller in 1951, Mr. Ness transferred to Edmonton in 1956 and to Calgary in 1967, when he was appointed manager of field services.

Mr. Ness was active in supporting garden and grain clubs, and served as a resource person at many leader training programs, Club Weeks, and Provincial 4-H Selections programs. When he retired from the Pool in 1982, Mr. Ness was appointed a director of the 4-H Foundation of Alberta, and is currently president of that organization. The 4-H Foundation has been instrumental in developing the Provincial 4-H Centre at Battle Lake.

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For further information please contact:

Elton Dunk
Provincial 4-H agricultural specialist
427-2541

December 17, 1984

For immediate release

Livestock sales at Mexican show

Alberta cattle and swine breeders sold nearly $250,000 worth of livestock at the Guadalajara Livestock Show held in Mexico in November.

John Latham, an international trade director with Alberta Agriculture, reports that the five purebred cattle breeders attending the show returned with orders for 80 head of Simmental and 20 head of Maine Anjou. The three swine breeders who attended reported considerable interest in Alberta swine, and sales are pending on the receipt of import permits from the Mexican government. Two seminars on artificial insemination held during the show resulted in orders for 700 vials of frozen boar semen.

In addition to the immediate sales, Mr. Latham says the Mexicans showed great interest in buying more livestock and semen in the near future.

Alberta has had a booth at the Guadalajara show for the past six years, but for the past two or three years sales dried up because of Mexico's difficult economic situation. This year, however, Mexico's economy has improved, the country once again has access to foreign exchange, and things have changed dramatically. Livestock herds are being expanded, the demand for quality livestock is on the upswing, and Mr. Latham says it looks as if Alberta's tenacity is going to pay off.

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For further information please contact:

John Latham
427-4241

December 17, 1984

For immediate release

Feedlot production seminar

"Your feeds" is the theme of Alberta Agriculture's seventh annual feedlot production seminar, scheduled for January 8, 1985 in Ponoka.

Rick Williams, the district agriculturist at Ponoka, says the seminar will look at nutrition, ration formulation and the economics of properly balanced rations.

Two staff members of Alberta Agriculture - Ron Weisenburger of the beef cattle and sheep branch and Abdul Suleiman, a nutritionist at the feed testing laboratory - will present information on nutrition requirements, protein, energy, minerals, vitamins, supplements, commercial minerals and ration formulation.

Brian Harris, a consultant to Alberta Agriculture, will discuss ration formulation, the economics of rations and least cost rations.

Dr. Garry Mathison, associate professor of animal nutrition at the University of Alberta, will provide information on Bovatec and Compudose.

Ed Heinrick of Agriculture Canada will discuss feed medications and the new rules that apply to them and mixing them with on-farm feeds.

Registration for the feedlot seminar is needed by January 4, 1985. The cost is $15 per person or $25 for husband and wife. Lunch is included. To register, please contact one of the following Alberta Agriculture district offices: Ponoka - 783-4476; Camrose - 679-1210; Rimbey - 843-2201; or Wetaskiwin - 352-1240.

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For further information please contact:

Rick Williams
783-4476

December 17, 1984

For immediate release

Natural gas rebate for agricultural producers extended

The natural gas rebate for primary agricultural producers has been extended for another year to December 31, 1985. It had been due to expire December 31, 1984.

Under the program primary agricultural producers are eligible for a rebate of 50 cents per gigajoule (GJ) on annual consumption of natural gas above 300 GJ, up to a maximum of 10,000 GJ. This translates to a maximum rebate of $4,850 per year, says Nabi Chaudhary, an economist with Alberta Agriculture's production and resource economics branch.

Application forms for the program are available from local gas co-ops and Alberta Agriculture's district offices.

The program is administered by the rebates branch of Alberta Utilities and Telecommunications. Further information can be obtained by phoning 422-1233 or writing to the Rebates Branch, 2nd Floor, Westcor Building, 12323-Stony Plain Road, Edmonton, Alberta, T5N 3Y9.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Nabi Chaudhary
427-5395

December 17, 1984

For immediate release

Popular farm conference returns

The eighth annual conference Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit (MATFP) will take place March 11 to 14, 1985 at Chateau Lake Louise.

The conference offers a range of speakers on farm technology, agricultural issues and human relations. MATFP is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, and it is almost always sold out.

Although MATFP's location has changed and the date is a little earlier than in past years, its basic format will stay the same for 1985, says organizer James Obniawka. Four select-a-session topics will run at once; most will be presented twice, and most speakers will be available for bearpit sessions in the evenings. All participants will receive copies of speakers' presentations.

The keynote speaker for MATFP will be Dr. Joe Connell of Waterloo, Ontario, who will apply his background in education and psychology to the topic of motivation and how to stay motivated on the farm.

Speakers on human relations have been the most popular with conference participants in past years, and Mr. Obniawka says there's an excellent line-up for 1985. A panel of three farm women will talk about business arrangements that work for them, a representative of the Cross Cancer Institute will offer advice for coping with life's hardships, and a speaker from California will discuss how to sustain a loving marriage.

Some of the other topics include selecting farm equipment sized to the operation, the myths and realities of chemical safety, managing short-term and medium-term loans, steps to estate planning, the truth about cholesterol, understanding farm business contracts, U.S. agricultural policy, and ways of conserving soil moisture.

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Popular farm conference returns (cont'd)

A new feature at MATFP for 1985 will be three pre-conference seminars. They are free to MATFP registrants, and will offer participants the opportunity to practise certain skills. Enrolment is limited, however, so if you are interested, please apply early. The seminar topics are effective public speaking; decision making on the farm; and designing spreadsheets, limited to 10 people who do not own computers, but open to anyone who brings a computer.

Registration forms for MATFP are available from Alberta Agriculture's district offices or the farm business management branch at Olds. The fee is $125 for one person or $150 for husband and wife. Although MATFP is limited to the first 425 applicants, Mr. Obniawka says there are occasionally cancellations, so encourages anyone who wants to attend to register. Accommodation costs are not included.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

James Obniawka
556-4240

December 17, 1984

For immediate release

Here's the beef -- it's lean!

Today's Canadian beef is lean, says Alberta Agriculture's provincial food and nutrition specialist, Aileen Whitmore.

Trimmed cuts, particulary those from the hip such as round steak, or rump and eye-of-round roasts, are comparable to chicken and fish in calories and fat content.

Mrs. Whitmore says that a study at the University of Guelph showed that in the past some tables of food values overestimated the fat content of commercially trimmed Canadian beef by as much as 60 per cent. These figures were collected in the United States more than 25 years ago using a small number of animals.

In Canada many producers have switched to leaner European breeds like Charolais and Simmental. Farmers are raising these cattle because of the Canadian grading standards introduced in 1972, which identify fat levels as a main grading criterion.

Mrs. Whitmore explains that Canada has four Grade A fat levels for beef, with Grades A1 and A2 being the leanest. The price incentive paid to the producer for A1 and A2 cattle means these grades are most often available in retail stores.

The figures from the Guelph study are based on carcasses from 110 cattle representing a cross-section of the traditional breeds and the newer European breeds.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

December 17, 1984

For immediate release

Extension market economist appointed

Errol Anderson has been appointed Alberta Agriculture's extension market economist at the Airdrie regional office. David Walker, head of the market analysis branch, made the announcement.

Mr. Anderson will co-ordinate and participate in extension programs relating to market information and analysis. He will be available to speak at producer meetings on grain and livestock marketing, will co-ordinate Alberta Agriculture's market information programs with people outside government, and help to assess farmers' market information needs.

Mr. Anderson was raised on a farm near Medicine Hat. In 1978 he graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in agriculture specializing in agricultural economics. Since then he has worked for the Alberta Wheat Pool. Mr. Anderson replaces Dwayne Couldwell who was promoted to the position of grain market analyst in Edmonton.

Anyone who would like assistance in planning marketing seminars for producers can reach Mr. Anderson at 948-5101.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Errol Anderson
948-5101

December 17, 1984

For immediate release

Crop marketing officer appointed

Beata Daniel has been appointed crop marketing officer for Alberta Agriculture's agri-food development branch. Her appointment is announced by Dr. D.A. Evans, branch head.

Based in Lethbridge, Ms. Daniel will work closely with commodity groups, companies and government staff as far north as Red Deer. She will concentrate on assistance in crop marketing and development, and will be the marketing sector's contact person for crops in southern Alberta.

Ms. Daniel was born in Hungary and at an early age came to Canada with her family. She attended high school in Quebec City, then completed a B.Sc. in agriculture in 1978, specializing in crop science and international agriculture.

Following graduation, Ms. Daniel worked for Cargill Grain Co. Ltd. in Montreal, Canfarm Cooperative Services in Lethbridge, Challenger Well Services Ltd. and most recently, May and Baker Canada Inc. as sales representative for northern Alberta.

Ms. Daniel speaks French as well as some Hungarian and German.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Beata Daniel
329-5125

AGRI-NEWS

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year from the staff of Alberta Agriculture's Communications Division

December 24, 1984

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
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For immediate release

Holiday turkey

Roasted turkey is an important item on holiday menus. Aileen Whitmore, provincial food and nutrition specialist with Alberta Agriculture, offers some guidelines that should ensure a perfectly prepared bird and a dinner all guests will enjoy.

Storing

Store fresh turkey loosely covered with waxed paper in the coldest part of the refrigerator. A fresh bird should be cooked within two to three days of purchase.

Preparing

Thaw your turkey in its original wrapper. There are three methods of thawing that keep the outer meat and skin cold while the interior is still thawing.

The safest way to thaw turkey is to put it in the refrigerator, allowing five hours per pound or 10 hours per kilogram. The fastest way to thaw a turkey is to immerse it in cold water; this takes about one hour per pound or two hours per kilogram. To thaw a turkey at room temperature, slit the plastic wrap along the back, put the bird on a rack or tray to drain, and cover it with a paper bag or towel. This takes about 1½ hours per pound or three hours per kilogram.

Refrigerate or cook the bird as soon as it is defrosted; never leave it at room temperature.

Cook defrosted turkey within 24 hours, and cook it as soon as it is stuffed.

"Avoid the temptation to stuff the bird the day before, as it gives spoilage organisms a chance to grow," says Mrs. Whitmore. "Pack the stuffing loosely to allow heat to penerate more quickly."

- (cont'd) -

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Holiday turkey (cont'd)

In the interests of safety, wash all utensils and surfaces with hot, soapy water immediately after preparing raw turkey, dispose of the wet wrapper so it doesn't drip on anything and wash your hands thoroughly.

Roasting and serving

Cook turkey at 325°F (160°C); temperatures below 300°C are not safe. Place the stuffed bird breast side up on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. Brush with butter or oil and cover the turkey loosely with aluminum foil, shiny side down.

Turkey roasting timetable

Weight in pounds (kg)	Hours
8 (3)	3¾ to 4½
12 (4)	4¾ to 5½
16 (7)	5¼ to 6
20 (9)	5¾ to 6½
24 (11)	6¼ to 7

A meat thermometer is the most reliable method of checking to see if the turkey is done. Roast a stuffed turkey to 165°F (70°C) in the centre of the stuffing, and an unstuffed bird to 185°F (85°C) in the thickest part of the thigh. Two other signs of doneness are that the thickest part of the drumstick feels soft when you press it, and the leg moves easily at the joint when lifted or twisted.

Immediately after serving the turkey, remove any leftover stuffing, and refrigerate the meat and stuffing separately. Never leave them at room temperature for more than two hours. Leftover cooked turkey will keep two to four days in the refrigerator and one to three months in the freezer.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

December 24, 1984

For immediate release

Play it safe over the holidays

For many city dwellers there's nothing nicer than being invited to a farm over the holidays for cross-country skiing, snowmobiling or other recreational activities.

While farm families tend to be aware of the hazards associated with these activities and follow safety precautions as a matter of course, lack of familiarity on the part of visitors can lead to accidents. Alberta Agriculture's farm safety staff urge everyone -- hosts and guests alike -- to keep safety in mind this holiday season.

Some particular hazards include:

* Horses: Take special care when children are around.

* Snowmobiling: First-time operators or once-a-winter operators may have difficulty; snowmobiling at night calls for extra care.

* Cross-country skiing: It's easy to get lost if you ski at night, and it's surprisingly easy to get lost even in daylight if you're away from buildings or other landmarks.

As you head out into the country, or welcome visitors from the city, please play it safe!

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Solomon Kyeremanteng
Farm safety program
427-2186

December 24, 1984

For immediate release

4-H'ers give to communities at Christmas

The pledge of Canada's 4-H clubs includes a promise of service to the community. For many clubs, community service takes the form of donating time and energy to senior citizens in the area.

4-H members visit seniors in nursing and retirement homes, read to them, write letters for them or just talk. Clubs sometimes go into nursing homes and put on entertainment nights, skits and sing-songs. During the past year the Clive Spoons and Spools 4-H club invited a senior citizen's group to a Strawberry Tea, and the Didsbury Dairy Club invited seniors out for a barbecue.

Now, during the Christmas season, many clubs have planned special projects for seniors. As in past years, they'll be singing carols and providing games, entertainment and friendly companionship. Some 4-H members brought gifts, flowers, oranges and food hampers to seniors. Others arranged shopping evenings at local stores, and helped seniors with Christmas shopping.

The most valued Christmas gifts are those that come from the heart, in the spirit of giving and service. Alberta's 4-H clubs are showing that their hearts, and Christmas spirits, are in the right place by offering community services where they are most needed.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

December 24, 1984

For immediate release

Care of Christmas trees

Live Christmas trees are still very popular with people who enjoy an old-fashioned Christmas. Lorraine Taylor of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre recommends following a few guidelines in order to reduce the fire hazard of a natural tree.

When selecting a tree that has already been cut, try to find the freshest one possible. A good tree will stay fresh for at least two weeks with proper care. The length of freshness also depends on the species. Scots pine are the best, with Douglas fir, white pine, balsam fir and the spruces being progressively shorter lived.

Pick a tree that has a good, green color and strong, pungent fragrance. Wiggle some of the main branches to see if they are still springy. Next, run your fingers over the needles to see if they are still soft and flexible. Now pick up the tree and bump the butt on the ground. If only a few needles fall off, the tree is probably quite fresh. Some trees are cut as early as October and might not pass these tests.

Store the tree outside, frozen and in the shade, if you don't plan to decorate it immediately. As soon as you bring the tree into the house, cut 1 cm to 2.5 cm from the base. This will clear pores that were plugged with resin and allow water to be drawn up into the tree more readily. Use a tree stand that holds at least one litre of water. This will have to be filled every day. Don't add sugar or even fire retardants to the water. They do nothing for the tree except plug the pores again.

Put your tree in a cool room away from heating outlets, air registers and fireplaces.

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Care of Christmas trees (cont'd)

Don't block exits or restrict traffic flow. Secure the tree well, especially if there are pets or small children. Check your electrical lights for loose or exposed wires, and always unplug the lights when going out or going to bed. Never use candles on or near the tree.

Follow these guidelines, and have a safe and Merry Christmas.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Lorraine Taylor
973-3351

December 24, 1984

For immediate release

Gift plants at Christmas

This is the season for giving and receiving flowering plants like poinsettias, azaleas and Christmas cacti. A live plant adds warmth and cheeriness to this festive time.

Here, from Betty Vladicka of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, are a few things to consider when selecting and caring for a Christmas plant.

Contrary to popular belief, the poinsettia is not poisonous, but the azalea and Jerusalem cherry are -- and the flowers and cherries look a lot like candy, so keep these two out of the reach of small children and pets.

When bringing a new plant into your home, clear the drainage holes of tin foil around the bottom of the pot. Also, check the plant and soil surface for insects and diseases. Too many times a temporary Christmas plant leaves behind an infestation of scales, mealy bugs or spider mites on your other houseplants. Keep the new plant in quarantine for about two weeks or until you are sure it is pest free. If necessary, use an appropriate insecticide or dispose of the entire plant before it infests your other, more valuable plants.

Always try to place your plant in a location that suits its growing needs. Azaleas and cyclamen, for example, are the only Christmas plants that should be kept in bright, indirect or diffused light. This prevents burning or scalding of the sensitive leaves and flowers. All other Christmas plants prefer direct sunlight during the winter.

Most houses and apartments are too warm for fall flowering plants. The azalea, chrysanthemum, cyclamen, Jerusalem cherry and poinsettia all prefer temperatures of 15^{o}C. Therefore, try to put these plants close to a window where it is somewhat cooler, being careful of drafts and heat registers. The amaryllis, Christmas cactus, kalanchoe and ornamental pepper all tolerate normal room temperatures and direct sunlight.

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Gift plants at Christmas (cont'd)

Almost all Christmas plants need to be kept constantly moist. Water them frequently, but don't allow water to sit in the drainage dish. Jerusalem cherry and kalanchoe plants prefer a more dry condition, so allow the soil to dry out between waterings. Poinsettias and Christmas cacti will tolerate short, dry periods.

A Christmas plant can sometimes be kept for many years and made to reflower each year at Christmas time. This requires proper care and growing conditions. For more information on the culture of a specific plant, contact Betty Vladicka at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, 973-3351.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Betty Vladicka
973-3351

December 24, 1984

For immediate release

Poinsettia falsely accused

The poinsettia is **not** poisonous! Unfortunately, many people have been scared into thinking that this popular Christmas plant is lethal if eaten by children or pets, says Betty Vladicka of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre.

Research at Ohio State University has debunked this myth. Rats given unusually high doses of poinsettia did not die, and showed no symptoms of poisoning or changes in dietary intake or behavior patterns. There was no evidence to substantiate any of the allegations made about the poinsettia's toxic properties.

Widely recognized as a symbol of the Christmas season, the poinsettia was introduced to the United States in 1925 by Joel R. Poinsett, the American ambassador to Mexico. He had observed the Franciscan priests using this native shrub of Mexico in their Nativity festivals. The Mexicans referred to the plant as "The Flower of the Holy Night."

The poinsettia is Alberta's most popular Christmas pot plant, says Mrs. Vladicka. Approximately 200,000 potted plants will be sold this Christmas.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Betty Vladicka
973-3351

AGRI-NEWS

December 31, 1984

For immediate release

This Week

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For immediate release

New approach needed to supply management negotiations

A new approach to federal-provincial negotiations is needed in national supply management if Alberta is to receive sufficient provincial production to meet its market needs.

That is how LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's minister of agriculture, reacted to the study just completed by the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council into the implications of Alberta's participation in national poultry marketing agencies.

The study reviewed the performances of the provincial egg and turkey industries since they joined national agencies which control production throughout Canada by setting the production of individual provinces. The chicken industry was also studied, although Alberta does not belong to a national agency.

The study indicates Alberta's egg and turkey industries have lost $2.7 million and $2.8 million respectively every year as a consequence of having provincial production constrained at a time when the province's population and therefore market requirements were increasing. If Alberta's chicken producers had joined the Canadian Chicken Marketing Agency at the time of its inception, the cost to the industry would have been $1.3 million per year, the study estimated.

"I hope that the new spirit of federal-provincial cooperation can lead to meaningful discussions at the next meeting of all signatories," said Mr. Fjordbotten. "A recognition of Alberta's situation would lead to a distribution of national quota that addresses provincial market conditions rather than a strict adherence to historical production patterns."

To the extent such discussions prove meaningful, said the minister, a new era could begin in the area of supply management in Canada.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

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427-2164

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December 31, 1984

For immediate release

Dairy outlook

The decline in fluid milk sales that has occurred in Alberta since 1981 seems to have bottomed out, with sales in October up strongly from a year ago.

Alberta Agriculture's dairy market analyst, David Hope, warns however, that fluid milk sales are unlikely to return to the high growth levels considered normal before 1982.

Between August and October 1984 total milk production in Alberta increased by 5.3 per cent compared with a year ago. The producer price for fluid milk was $46.63 per hectolitre, an increase of nearly five per cent from 1983.

From August to October 1984 cheddar cheese production in Alberta rose by nearly 25 per cent over the previous year, but the production of specialty cheese declined from the large quantity produced in 1983.

To date in this dairy year, Alberta's industrial milk production is well above the level necessary to meet the province's quota. The sooner producers make the necessary adjustments, the lower the costs associated with these adjustments will be, says Mr. Hope. "Above-quota milk production could be a major problem for the dairy industry in Alberta this year," he says.

Recent trends in butter sales are not encouraging for quota prospects, he adds. Canadian consumption trends suggest that a market share quota decrease for 1985-86 is much more likely than an increase.

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Dairy outlook (cont'd)

The outlook for world prices for dairy products isn't good, either. "In the foreseeable future, Canadian prices will exceed world prices by a great margin, and this will keep the levies paid by Canadian producers for surplus disposal very high," says Mr. Hope.

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Until January 9 questions about this article should be directed to:

David Walker
427-7132

After January 10, you can reach David Hope at 427-5382

December 31, 1984

For immediate release

Pasture management symposium

The latest pasture management techniques will be the subject of the Alberta Grazing Management Symposium for 1985.

To meet the growing demand for information about pasture management, the symposium is being offered at four locations: the Grande Prairie Motor Inn at Grande Prairie February 11; the Westlock Inn at Westlock February 12; the Elks' Hall at Vermilion February 13; and Olds College February 14.

The deadline for registering is February 6.

The symposium is being sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Forage Institute and local forage associations.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Stan Parsons of Albuquerque, New Mexico, will discuss grazing management techniques to improve production and profit. The afternoon session will start with a presentation on fencing alternatives with high tensile smooth wire. The speaker will be Bert van Dalfsen, a regional engineer with the B.C. ministry of agriculture and food. The symposium will conclude with a producer panel discussion on the topic, Does intensive pasture management pay?

The registration fee for the symposium is $15 per person, which includes lunch and a copy of the proceedings. Registration forms are available from local forage associations and Alberta Agriculture's district offices.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Ken Lopetinsky
Alberta Agriculture
674-8258

or

Bill Gaugler
Alberta Forage Institute
645-6301

Alberta
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December 31, 1984

For immediate release

Canola meal mission to southeast Asia

A trade mission to promote canola meal from western Canada in southeast Asia has returned very optimistic about the chances of gaining a share in the livestock feed market.

Sophisticated hog and poultry industries in southeast Asia require substantial volumes of meal. Every year exporters deliver about 700,000 tonnes or $150 million worth of soy meal to three countries alone -- the Phillippines, Thailand and Indonesia.

The mission made it clear that canola meal can replace part of the soy meal imports once the end users become familiar with our product, says Bill Anderson, an international trade director with Alberta Agriculture.

After visiting the countries, mentioned earlier, along with Singapore, Taiwan and Korea, the western Canadian mission found that end users would not hesitate to substitute canola meal for soy in rations, provided canola proves cost-effective.

Feeding trials will begin shortly as a means of promoting canola meal, said Mr. Anderson.

Other Albertans on the recent seven-member mission included representatives of United Oilseeds Products Ltd., Alberta Food Products and United Feeds.

-30-

For further information please contact:

Bill Anderson
427-4241

December 31, 1984

For immediate release

1984 Custom rates for land breaking and clearing

The results of the 1984 survey of custom land breaking and clearing rates have been released by the statistics branch and the farm business management branch of Alberta Agriculture. The survey was conducted in November, 1984. Information was gathered from 75 custom operators throughout Alberta.

Table 1: Land clearing (cost per acre)

Region	Most common 1984 charges	Most common 1983 charges	Notes (refers to 1984 figures)
Brushing and piling			
South	$120-140	$ 90-120	D6 to D8
Central	$110-130	$100-130	D6 to D8
North	$ 95-104	S100-135	16B Fiat, D6 to D8
Repiling			
South	$ 38	–	One report, D8
Central	–	–	–
North	$9.00-9.70	–	D7G
Ripping			
South	–	–	–
Central	$150-180	–	D7
North	$120	–	One report D7E
Root raking			
South	–	$ 10	–
Central	$82/hr	–	One report 12'
North	$53/hr	$ 10	One report 11'
	–	$175/day	Rental

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1984 Custom rates for land breaking and clearing (cont'd)

Sixty per cent of the land clearing operators included travel costs in their rates. Seventeen per cent included one-way travel costs.

Claire Lukey of the farm business management branch said it is hard to compare 1983 and 1984 rates because this year's survey was more extensive. The results do show that brushing and piling rates increased in the south and central regions, while they decreased in the north. This decrease could be due to increased competition for the large land clearing jobs in the Peace River region.

Table 2: Land breaking (cost per acre)

Region	Most common 1984 charges	Most common 1983 charges	Notes (refers to 1984 figures)
Disking			
South	–	$20-22.50	Custom rate
	$ 6.50-7.00	–	Rental
Central	$16.20-20.00	$17.50-22.50	8'-12'
North	$18.00-21.40	$20-22.50	9.5'-12'
Plowing			
South	$19	$25	One report, 7' x 18'
Central	–	$35	–
North	$36.70-48.00	$35	–
Cultivating			
South	$13	–	16'
Central	–	–	–
North	$12	–	12'-14'
Dugouts, drainage			
South	$90/hr	$120/hr	One report, D8
Central	$55-101/hr	$120/hr	D6 to D8
North	$55-67/hr	$130/hr	D6 to D7

- (cont'd) -

1984 Custom rates for land breaking and clearing (cont'd)

Rototilling			
Alberta	$110	–	One report, bushland
Rock Raking			
Alberta	$59/hr	–	One report, 20'

Custom rates for disking remained relatively constant from 1983 to 1984. Rates quoted for dugout and drainage work decreased in all three regions.

Ms. Lukey says the figures given in the table are actual charges quoted by custom operators. Circumstances in different parts of the province determine the individual operator's rates.

Information on all types of custom operation charges in Alberta can be obtained from district agriculture offices, the statistics branch in Edmonton (427-4018) or the farm business management branch in Olds (556-4240).

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Claire Lukey
556-4236

December 31, 1984

For immediate release

Osteoporosis

"Drink your milk" is a familiar phrase used by mothers everywhere. Adults usually ignore this advice because milk is for children, right? Wrong, says Catherine Sinnott, food specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Milk and milk products are not just for children. True, by the time you are 18, you have reached your adult height and your bones are as long as they are going to get. But your bone mass increases until you reach age 35. Once the mass and length of your bones are established, your bones are still not static. They undergo turnover throughout life and need calcium for this process.

The popular press is full of information these days about osteoporosis. This age-related disease is characterized by a weakening of the bone due to a loss of calcium, explains Ms. Sinnott. People with this condition can suffer bone fractures as a result of a simple fall or bruise. These fractures most commonly occur in the spine, wrist and hip.

"The best way to avoid osteoporosis is to build dense bones when you are young," says Ms. Sinnott. "This is particularly important for women, who are more susceptible to osteoporosis than men."

Here are some of the risk factors associated with osteoporosis:

1. Women have less dense bones than men. The male hormone testosterone maintains the bone mass in men. Estrogen protects pre-menopausal women from demineralization of their bones, but when the production of estrogen declines at menopause, bone mass rapidly decreases for three to seven years afterward.

2. Caucasians are more likely to develop osteoporosis than other racial groups.

- (cont'd) -

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Osteoporosis (cont'd)

3. Underweight women are more susceptible to osteoporosis than overweight women.

4. Regular exercise appears to protect women from developing osteoporosis, although the relationship between exercise and osteoporosis is not fully understood. Modest weight-bearing exercise, such as walking, is acceptable.

Osteoporosis is not a straightforward case of calcium deficiency, says Ms. Sinnott. Calcium must not only be present in the diet but must be taken in combination with other nutrients, such as vitamin D and protein, in order to be efficiently absorbed.

Health and Welfare Canada recommends 700 mg of calcium daily for women aged 16 to 49, and 800 mg for women over 50. A national survey showed that the average daily intake of calcium for women over 40 is 600 mg, which is well below the recommendation. Some researchers say that a daily intake of 700 mg is too low. Others suggest intakes of 1,000 mg of calcium for pre-menopausal women and 1,500 mg for post-menopausal women.

Most of the calcium in the Canadian diet comes from milk and milk products. A 250-mL glass of milk provides about 310 mg of calcium. There is little difference in the calcium content of skim, two per cent or whole milk. A 125-g serving of plain yogurt contains about 200 mg calcium, whereas a 45-g serving of cheddar cheese contributes about 320 mg of calcium. Two glasses of milk a day is a good start to providing 700 or 800 mg of calcium. With the addition of a serving of cheese, 900 mg is easily reached.

- 30 -

For further information please contact:

Catherine Sinnott
427-2412

December 31, 1984

For immediate release

Family spending: part of the farm financial plan

In today's complex economic environment of fluctuating interest rates, rising input costs and soft markets for farm products, farm families know it's essential to control farm expenses. But how much attention do you give to family living expenses? Can you estimate within a few hundred dollars how much it cost your family to live in 1984, or forecast expenses for 1985?

Jean Wilson, Alberta Agriculture's family resource management specialist, says that although personal spending is small compared with farm spending, it's an important part of the farm financial plan. Money to cover the costs of the basics such as food, clothing and household operation must be budgeted for no matter what the price of grain is. Other family spending then needs to be planned in relation to the farm business. Consider how withdrawals from the farm account for family living will affect the amount of money available for farm reinvestment and debt payment.

One of the best ways to gain control of family expenses is to keep records for several months, Ms. Wilson suggests. Develop the habit of keeping your bills and receipts, write cheques whenever appropriate, and note each time you hand over cash to the kids. The publication *Cope...with Family Financial Records* is available free from Alberta Agriculture's district offices, and can be used to record your family expenses.

Once you've kept track for a few months, you may find some surprises, says Ms. Wilson. How can groceries cost so much when you use your own meat, grow a garden and can fruit? Does curling or hockey really cost that much? A record of where the money goes gives you facts so that in family discussions you can make some spending decisions.

- (cont'd) -

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Family spending: part of the farm financial plan (cont'd)

Resolve to gain control over your family finances in 1985 by keeping track of living expenses. Records for a few months will give you an idea of basic costs; records for the year will enable you to relate family expenses to farm cash flow plans.

For a copy of *Cope...with Family Financial Records,* and for more information on family finance, contact the district home economist in your area.

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For further information please contact:

Jean Wilson
427-2412

December 31, 1984

For immediate release

District agriculturist-in-training appointed

Kathleen Holder is working in Alberta Agriculture's Lloydminster office as a district agriculturist-in-training. Her appointment is announced by Ralph Berkan, the regional director.

Ms. Holder is training under the direction of district agriculturist Randy Bjorklund.

Ms. Holder grew up in Ontario, and in 1983 graduated from the University of Guelph with a B.Sc. in agriculture, majoring in animal and poultry science. She spent a year as a teaching aid specialist in the animal and poultry science department at the University of Guelph before joining Alberta Agriculture.

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For further information please contact:

Kathleen Holder
875-5506

For immediate release

Regional forage specialist appointed

The appointment of Bjorne Berg as regional forage specialist at Vermilion is announced by Ralph Berkan, Alberta Agriculture's regional director.

In his new position Mr. Berg will promote and assist with the improvement of forage production and management in northeastern Alberta. He has a B.Sc. in agriculture specializing in range management and animal science, and an M.Sc. in animal science. Both degrees are from the University of Alberta.

From 1979 to 1981 Mr. Berg worked as district supervisor for public lands in the Wainwright area, and from 1981 to 1984 he was employed as the regional range manager of public lands in the Peace River region.

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For further information please contact:

Bjorne Berg
853-2811

Correction

In the article on the Agro-Electronic Show n the December 10 edition of Agri-News, the name of one of the show's sponsors was left cut. Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch should have been listed as a sponsor along with the engineering branch and the University of Alberta.

COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

Palliser Wheat Growers' Annual Convention
Holiday Inn
Winnipeg, Manitoba.....January 2 - 3

Unifarm Annual Convention
Westin Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta.....January 7 - 11

Agricultural Society Regional Workshops
Centennial Hall, Club Room
Two Hills, Alberta.....January 9

Western Canadian Crop Show
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan..... January 9 - 11

Annual Interprovincial Alfalfa Seed School
Regina Inn
Regina, Saskatchewan.....January 13 - 15

Agricultural Society Regional Workshop
Fairview Region..... January 15 - 17

Market Garden Short Course
Silver Slipper Building
Edmonton Northlands
Edmonton, Alberta.....January 15 - 17

Grow Show '85 (Agricultural Chemicals)
Westerner Exposition Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta..... January 16 - 18

Alberta Pork Seminar
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta.....January 16 - 18

Sheep Production Seminar
Fairview College
Fairview, Alberta.....January 19

Agricultural Society Regional Workshop
Holden Complex
Holden, Alberta.....January 22

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Agricultural Society Regional Workshop
Town & Country Centre
Forestburg, Alberta.....January 23

Soil Conservation - The Ultimate Challenge
Legion Hall
Weyburn, Saskatchewan.....January 23 - 24

Alberta Canola Growers Annual Convention
Four Seasons Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta..... January 23 - 25

Agricultural Society Regional Workshop
Lakedell Agricultural Society Complex.....January 29

Market Garden Short Course
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta.....January 29 - 31

Agricultural Society Regional Workshop
Cottonwood-Gordon Agricultural Society.....January 30

Alberta Limousin Association Annual Meeting
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta.....January 31

Western Stock Growers' Association Annual Meeting
Terrace Inn
Edmonton, Alberta.....January 31
February 1 - 2

Agricultural Society Regional Workshops
Airdrie Region.....January 31
February 7

Canadian Limousin Association Annual Meeting
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta.....February 1 - 2

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference
Westin Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta.....February 4 - 6

Alberta Dairymen's Association Convention & Annual Meeting
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta.....February 4 - 6

What's In Stock For You?
(Beef Seminar)
Saskatoon Travelodge
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.....February 5 - 7

Market Garden Short Course
Lakelander Motor Inn
Bonnyville, Alberta.....February 6 - 7

Canadian Charolais Association Annual Meeting and Convention
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta.....February 7 - 9

The Alberta Grazing Management Symposium
Grande Prairie Motor Inn
Grande Prairie, Alberta.....February 11

The Alberta Grazing Management Symposium
Westlock Inn
Westlock, Alberta.....February 12

Agricultural Society Regional Workshop
Lethbridge Region..... February 12 - 14

The Alberta Grazing Management Symposium
Westlock Inn
Westlock, Alberta..... February 13

The Alberta Grazing Management Symposium
Olds College
Olds, Alberta.....February 14

World Charolais Federation Meeting
Houston, Texas.....February 18 - 26

22nd Annual Alberta Soil Science Workshop
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta.....February 19 - 20

Western Canadian Society for Horticulture
Sheraton-Cavalier
Calgary, Alberta.....February 19 - 22

Protecting Your Farm Investment
St. Albert Inn
St. Albert, Alberta.....February 26

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Agro-Electronic Show
Lakeland College
Vermilion, Alberta.....March 1 - 2

Western Canadian Economic Conference on the Food Industry
Convention Inn South
Edmonton, Alberta.....March 4 - 5

34th Alberta Poultry Industry Conference
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta.....March 4 - 6

Accent '85 Grains & Oilseeds Outlook Conference
Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge, Alberta..... March 5 - 6

Lethbridge Agricultural Exposition and Seed Fair
Lethbridge Exhibition Pavilions
Lethbridge, Alberta..... March 6 - 8

Agriculture Week
Province of Alberta.....March 10 - 16

Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit
Chateau Lake Louise
Lake Louise, Alberta.....March 11 - 14

Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame
Westin Hotel
Calgary, Alberta.....March 15

Alberta Dairy Seminar
Banff Springs Hotel
Banff, Alberta..... March 26 - 29

Northlands Western
Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta.....March 26 - 30

Swine Design '85
Exhibition Grounds
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan..... March 27 - 28

Alberta Horticultural Association Annual Convention
Travel Lodge
Medicine Hat, Alberta.....March 29 - 31

Alberta Association of MDs and Counties
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta.....April 2 - 3

Alberta Agricultural Economics Association
Annual Conference
Red Deer Lodge
Red Deer, Alberta.....April 11 - 12

Provincial 4-H Public Speaking Finals
Northlands Agricom Building
Edmonton, Alberta.....April 13

Canadian Forestry Service: Open House
Northern Forestry Research Centre
Edmonton, Alberta..... May 2 - 5

Canadian Water Resources Association Conference
Lethbridge, Alberta..... June

Agricultural Workshop for Lenders
Olds College
Olds, Alberta.....June 2 - 7

15th Annual Alberta Plowing Championships
Wanham, Alberta.....June 20 - 22

World Angus Forum
Convention Centre
Edmonton, Alberta.....July 17 - 22

Canadian Western Agribition and Mexabition
Exhibition Grounds
Regina, Saskatchewan.....November 23 - 29

Christian Farmers' Federation of Alberta Annual Meeting.....November 29

1986

World Sheep Congress
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta.....July 5 - 16

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